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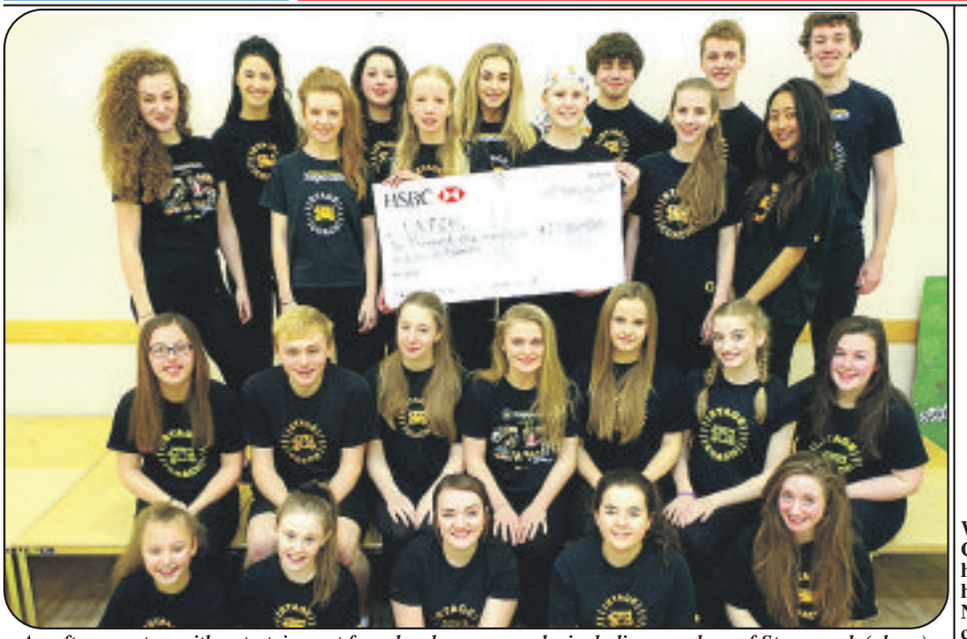
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH 2015

Out and about with The GEM
See page 14

SIX NATIONS RUGBY:
WALES STILL IN THE TITLE FRAME
BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

GEM FACEBOOK FEATURE
See Page 19



An afternoon tea, with entertainment from local young people, including members of Stagecoach (above) raised a stunning £1,500 for a children's charity. (See page 3 for the full story).

Cowbridge church comes to the aid of care home

WHEN a Cowbridge care home needed some help recently, a St Nicholas-based church came to the rescue.

The Plymouth Brethren Christian Church was contacted by Collette Rees, the care home manager at Southway Residential Home, to help with a problem.

Jonathan Dormer, a team leader at the church, told The GEM: "Collette had heard that the Plymouth Brethren have done a lot to help local communities and offer snow clearing and other practical jobs, along with free park benches to good causes.

"The home has a large and secluded garden area where the residents love to sit on warm sunny days. The only problem was that the old fence was falling down and there was no secure gate.

"Colette had concerns about the security of the garden, especially for residents with dementia."

The Plymouth Brethren sent a team in and the result is that the residents can now enjoy the garden in safety.

Jonathan Dormer said: "All the materials and labour were provided totally free of charge and the cost was over £500, plus two Saturdays' labour for six young men from the church.

"The residents wrote a thank you note and said that the two tubs given by the church, each planted with a small bush, ivy and flowers, complemented the other flowering tubs in the garden.

"They concluded: 'These make the patio a very attractive place to sit and enjoy the sun. We do appreciate your kindness in thinking of us…. Southway Residents'".

For more information on the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church, go to www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org.

(SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 4)

Council's warning on town fly-tipping

COWBRIDGE Town Council has appealed to residents to stop dumping excessive amounts of refuse and recycling material in rubbish bins.

The GEM understands that the problem is worse in Twt Park, near the children's play area.

In a letter to The GEM (*see page 4*), town clerk Andrew Davies points out disposing of domestic waste in a public litter bin is actually a form of fly-tipping, and offenders can face a fine.

Domestic waste, he points out, should only be disposed of by putting it out on a Vale Council collection day, or by taking it to a council amenity site, in either Llandow or Barry.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Let's think of the future, and build for the children!'

I'M writing in support of the letter from David Parry (The GEM February 12), who makes a strong case for additional housing in the Vale and uses his own family's situation to highlight the problem that exists.

I know the statistics do not exist, but it would be instructive to know how many of the houses sold in the rural Vale have been bought by incomers over the last 10, 20 or 30 years.

I ask the question because I would guess that young people and others who need affordable housing, have increasingly been priced out of the housing market in the rural Vale by older incomers, who have fuelled the rapid price rises we have seen.

Regular readers will recall the furore in these pages in March 2013 when the Vale Council proposed to close a number of primary schools in the rural Vale.

A well-organised campaign stopped this from happening. The problem had arisen because the average age of the population in the area had risen as younger people were forced to move out because of a lack of affordable housing.

You really can't have under-utilised local primary schools when you sell houses to older people and choke off the supply of new pupils.

We have been told that average private household monthly rents are at their highest ever.

We are also told that there is an acute shortage of homes for first time buyers, as they have been priced out of the market. The solution, everyone agrees, is to build more homes. The figure mentioned is an extra 300,000 homes per year for the foreseeable future. During the period of the LDP 2011 – 26 this is an extra 4.5 million homes that it is estimated should be added to the UK housing stock to satisfy housing needs, keep rents at a reasonable level, and avoid housing price bubbles.

This puts the 10,000 homes in the Vale into some sort of context, as it amounts to an additional contribution of 0.22 per cent to the UK housing stock.

Such a building effort must mean the use of some greenfield sites, plus effective use of brownfield sites and infill development. It also means that the smaller towns and villages of the rural Vale will have to expand to take their share of the additional homes.

If there is any criticism to be levelled it is, possibly, that the Vale Council has historically not been ruthless enough in ensuring that planning gain attached to the planning permission is achieved, and the adequate infrastructure to support housing development has not been delivered.

So, come on everybody – let's build for the future, for our children and grandchildren – so that they have homes to live in and are not forced to leave the rural Vale.

Let's revitalise the building industry and create a new, expanding industry – installing and maintaining solar panels and other green energy initiatives – so that our children and grandchildren have improved job and housing opportunities.

David Kennett, Cowbridge

SPEAKING UP FOR THE WELSH NHS...

ON the evening of Monday, February 9, while practising some inadequate kitchen knife skills, I cut my hand.

Although the cut appeared quite deep, I did not feel it severe enough to trouble staff in the already overworked accident and emergency department at my local hospital in Morriston. I commenced to self-treat the wound with some plasters and a bandage.

In any event, by the morning of Wednesday, February 11, it was evident that the cut was a little more unpleasant than I had first thought.

I work in the Bridgend area and decided, after all my best intentions, to attend the accident and emergency department at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

It was my first visit to the hospital in any capacity and as I entered the waiting room, I could see that there were several people already in attendance.

At the reception area, the female receptionist dealt with me in a very polite and friendly manner, obtaining my details and asking me to take a seat.

A very short time later, my name was called by a nurse, who I subsequently found to be Nurse Practitioner Buddug Roberts.

I was taken to a treatment area where my poorly dressed wound was dealt with. The nurse was very kind and empathetic towards me, treating me with good humour, even though in the grand scale of things my wound was relatively minor in comparison to what I assume is dealt with on a daily basis.

In the true spirit of the National Health service, she gave me the impression that at that moment in time, treating me was her highest priority.

I was dealt with from start to finish in less than 40 minutes – it took me longer to park the car.

All too often, patients are ready to complain about poor service. In order to help balance the books I felt, on leaving the hospital, that as I had experienced the best that the NHS has to offer, I needed to report on my positive experience.

While my injury is relatively minor, I felt it was important to point out the excellent care which I was afforded by the staff, in particular Nurse Practitioner Roberts, who are a credit to the hospital, as well as our NHS as a whole.

Phil Jones, Swansea.

'Why such hatred of my language?'

ISN'T it very sad that people like Peter Reed of Barry (Readers' Letters, The GEM, February 5), are expressing hatred of the Welsh language.

I was brought up in the Swansea Valley, where everybody spoke Welsh freely – and that goes for the other valleys as well.

What a brilliant upbringing it was. I'm very proud of my first language and to be insulted in this way degrades the language.

What does the writer know about the Welsh language? He needs to get a reality check and live in the real world.

The Welsh national anthem declares:

'O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau' (O may the old language continue).

And this is how it will be in my household.

A Jones and family, Coychurch.

'Why so touchy about Welsh?'

WHY, oh why are the Anglo-Welsh so touchy? I am Anglo-Welsh – *north Italian mother, a father from the Marches.*

Although born in the same east Midlands city as Plaid's Lord Wigley (Derby – and in the same nursing home!) I have lived here since 1967, with breaks for university education and research in England, and work in Hungary and Italy.

I regard myself as Welsh, support Wales and try to speak my limited Welsh. I love languages, even 'dead' Latin. Why be so upset if someone wants to write, speak or print in Welsh?

When I first arrived in Wales to read law, I was astonished to meet a fellow undergraduate from west Wales who, at 12, had had to learn English as a foreign language – while I, in my grammar school, was trying to grasp French and German.

Languages – all of them – have their own unique qualities as a means of communication. If someone wants to speak Welsh, let them; it's called free speech!

Finally, when in 1969, I worked for the UN in Hungary, I worked alongside a Russian army officer.

Our only language in common was French for the whole summer, while we worked on a collective farm in the blistering summer heat.

It could have been Welsh!

Christopher Short, Barry.

Planning delay is no fun...

WOW, what an amazing statement by the Vale Council, regarding their frustration at delays over the Barry Island funfair initiative.

The usually confidential negotiations with proposed developers exploded into the public domain with a statement of annoyance from the council.

The strength of the council's frustration is quite clear: negotiations with the developer appear to have 'reached an impasse'; site owners have made it clear they will not allow the site to be used 'until they obtain planning permission'; 'held to ransom by the site owners', and 'extremely frustrating'.

FocusBARRY has arranged with Mr Danter, the well-known funfair operator, to tell the Barry community about his ambitions for the site at their next meeting on March 4, but planning permission to build 25 units of accommodation appears to be a precondition of allowing Mr Danter to proceed.

He wants to be on-site for Easter – the council are supportive of that ambition, as are the majority of people commenting on social media.

It will be extremely disappointing to many if these plans are thwarted by a planning application which is not connected to the funfair development.

Dennis Harkus,
(FocusBARRY supporter).

'Balanced views on housing'

I WRITE in support of the balanced and sensible views expressed by David Parry under the headline of '*Rural communities need to take their share of housing*' (GEM Letters, February 12).

Providing the planning authority ensures the development is accompanied by the right infrastructure, there can be no logical argument against this much-needed, affordable housing – which will, hopefully, lead to young local people not having to move out of the community into which they were born.

Most of the objections appear to come from those who seek to deny others the opportunity to reside in or near Cowbridge, which smacks of self-preservation to maintain some sort of misguided elitist community – to the detriment of those in need.

John Evans, Talygarn.

Three good Samaritans!

I WOULD like to say a massive 'thank you' to the three male drivers who stopped to help me at 8.30pm on Valentine's Day in Port Road, when I had problems with a tyre.

Chivalry is alive and well in Barry!

Maxine Riseborough, Barry

Paddle steamer appeal

IT would not be too difficult to secure historical maritime artifacts for Barry – with your readers' help.

The paddle steamer *Barry* was built in 1907 for, and named after the town, a heroine of both World Wars – from Barry to the Dardenelles, the Bristol Channel to Dunkirk.

A few like-minded people liaising with local groups, associations, business, historians and individuals, hope to ensure that artifacts from the paddle steamer are returned home prior to the Gallipoli commemorations.

Donations and other help welcomed.

JT Greenway,
Chairman,
The Merchant Navy Association (Wales)
Barry branch,
19 Fryatt Street,
Barry.
CF63 4JU or:
mnawalesbarrybranch@googlemail.com

'The real reason for recycling closures?'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has recently closed a number of recycling centres in Barry because of so-called 'fly tipping and abuse'.

This reasoning is disingenuous, to say the least. As an assiduous recycler, I used three of these sites on a regular basis – at the Waitrose supermarket, the Waterfront close to the Halford's store and alongside the Gladstone Road roundabout near the police station.

Any 'fly-tipping and abuse' was marginal. My interpretation of 'fly-tipping' is the dumping of furniture, mattresses, builders' rubble, television sets, fridges, cookers – and other large items that should be disposed of at the council's waste amenity site.

I cannot recall any of the preceding items being offloaded at the sites I used. In my view, the real reason for closure was staggeringly simple: the bins were not emptied frequently enough and thus became overwhelmed and unsightly.

The council should be more honest and admit their failure to manage the sites properly.

Rather, they offer spurious explanations, blaming local people.

Derek Hooper, Barry.

We welcome your views - email us at:
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HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL FEBRUARY 26)

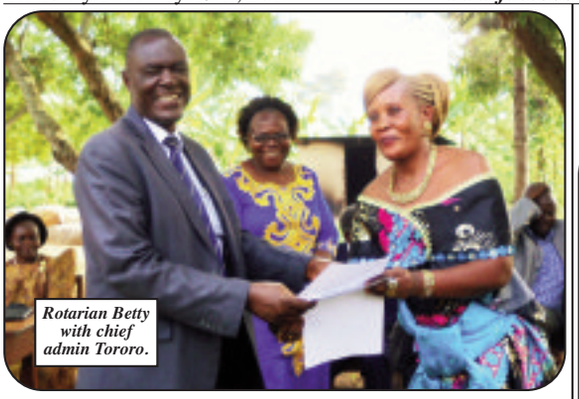
The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	06.31	10.5	18.58	10.4
20 Fri	07.18	10.8	19.42	10.6
21 Sat	07.59	10.9	20.22	10.7
22 Sun	08.47	10.7	21.04	10.4
23 Mon	09.28	10.2	21.47	9.9
24 Tues	10.10	9.6	22.31	9.2
25 Wed	10.57	9.0	23.21	8.5
26 Thur	11.53	8.2		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

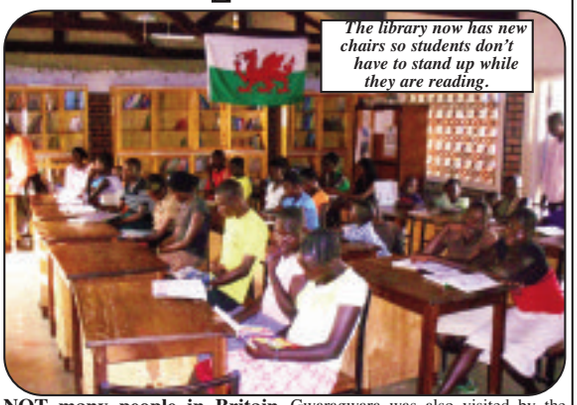
We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.



Rotarian Betty with chief admin Tororo.

What a difference having a guard on tap makes...



The library now has new chairs so students don't have to stand up while they are reading.

NOT many people in Britain need to have a watchman to guard their taps at night.

There are lots of taps in the typical household, all ready with fresh, clean drinking water whenever you turn them on. We take this for granted. Now, suppose there were no taps and no water for miles around. If you want water, every day you have to carry it from a source three miles away, whatever the weather, no matter how you feel.

On January 6, Pomede School in Uganda had the official opening of its first piped water supply by Minister for Primary Health Care, Sarah Aceng Opendi, accompanied by two local Rotarians, Betty Onyango (a former pupil) and Dennis Okathch.

The headteacher and chair of the school promised to look after the water pipe and to ensure its proper use.

Shortly afterwards, the school in Gwaragwara was also visited by the Minister for an official opening of a piped water supply for their pupils.

Like Pomede, they have employed a night guard to protect the tap and tank.

The headteacher thanked Cowbridge Rotary Club, 'Vale for Africa' and TOCIDA for making this happen. The water supply meant they no longer need to fetch water for drinking and cooking.

Rotarians were told that there was a chronic shortage of seats in Tororo Library and people had to stand up to read books or to study.

A supplier was identified in Kampala, the capital, and suitable transport arranged, resulting in 40 metal chairs being delivered to Tororo Library at the beginning of November.

As you can see, this has made a lot of people happy and some of the pupils got up and spontaneously started 'Tap Dancing'!

AB

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AFTERNOON TEA RAISES CASH CHILDREN'S CHARITY LATCH

ON Sunday, February 8 Cowbridge Town hall echoed with song and the rattle of teacups, as guests assembled for afternoon tea and to enjoy music and ballet.

The event took place in aid of LATCH, the Welsh children's cancer charity. Entertainment was provided by the Moya Vahey School of Classical Ballet and Stagecoach Performance Troupe.

Guests enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea, complete with home-made cakes and sandwiches, as they watched polished performances from the two groups.

These included ballet dances, some by very young ballerinas, through to energised and confident renderings of songs from the shows by the young people of Stagecoach.

The afternoon tea realised over £1,500 for LATCH, which supports children diagnosed with cancer and leukaemia and their families, at the Children's Hospital for Wales. Generous donations of over £500 will bring the grand total to over £2,000.

Carole Bird and Carol Brown, who organised the event, were delighted that everyone enjoyed the afternoon and that it had raised such an impressive sum for such a good cause.

They would like to thank all those who made cakes, sandwiches and helped on the day, and also the local businesses that provided raffle prizes and contributed towards the cost of hiring the venue.

CB

New panels will tell story of Cowbridge

One of the three new interpretive panels in Cowbridge.

NEW panels are being installed in Cowbridge to give visitors information on the town and its history.

The project is being delivered by the Cowbridge Town Team, made up of traders and community representatives who have been working with the Vale Council's town centre development officer.

Sarah Smith, owner of Old Masons Yard and member of the town team, said: "Cowbridge has such a rich and interesting history, dating back to Roman times, and there is so much we have to offer visitors. This is a great way of engaging with people, and getting them engaged in the town."

Following a report that identified the need for more visitor information, the town team decided to develop the project, helping bring some of Cowbridge's untold history to life through images and information.

Coun Lis Burnet, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is a great example of how regeneration can be achieved working in partnership with the community."

Senior citizens enjoy the first meeting of 2015

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, February 19 (today) at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge, commencing at 2pm.

As it is our first meeting of the new year, it will take the form of an afternoon tea. All members and friends are invited, and we ask that everyone brings a plate of food – sweet or savoury – to share.

We look forward to seeing you all – friends old and new – to join us as we start our new season of activities.

Mavis Ashford (Chairman)

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CHATTERBOOKS FUN AT COWBRIDGE LIBRARY!

Fun and learning with Chatterbooks.

COWBRIDGE Library Chatterbooks members celebrated National Libraries Day recently, when Suzanne Carpenter, a Cardiff-based children's illustrator, spoke to the Thursday group about her work and a fun craft session incorporated aspects of illustration.

Chatterbooks is a free, book-themed group for children aged 9-12 years old where children learn about book covers and typefaces, topical subjects and making a home-made book.

The Wednesday group has proved so popular that a second group has been started on Thursdays.

The next session is on Thursday, March 5, (4pm-5pm) and there are still spaces available.

For more information, please contact Cowbridge Library on 01446 773941.

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Church helps out care home

ABOVE: The church workers with some of the residents of Southway Residential Home (see story on page 1).

BELOW: The fence is almost completed.

FROM ONE STUDENT COUNCIL TO ANOTHER!

THIS week, the year-7 student council at Llantwit Major Comprehensive went to five primary schools – to speak to the year-6 student council.

We visited Wick, Rhws, St Illtyd, Llanilltud Fawr and St Athan. We talked about transition and areas in which we can improve it. We also planned a years 6 and 7 transition disco and we asked for their opinions.

I enjoyed speaking to the different schools and I thought it was good fun.

Bethan Roberts (year-7)

Mel is town's latest Welsh international!

by PHILIP IRWIN

MELISSA CLAY, from Llantwit Major, is the Vale's latest rugby international – and she has a 100 per cent record after the Welsh women's rugby team started the season with a win over England, followed by a second victory last weekend in Scotland.

Her sister, Steph Young, told The GEM that all her family were proud of her, and that they were thrilled that her dedication to the sport had taken her this far.

Although she was born in Plymouth, 25-year-old Mel, as family and friends call her, has lived in Llantwit Major since she was six, and went to Llantwit Comprehensive School, where she began her love affair with rugby.

Steph said: "As a tee, she had a taster of rugby training with the Vale girls' team in Barry. Mel had a brief encounter with Llantwit Major RFC's ladies team, but unfortunately, it wasn't long until the team disbanded.

"Mel then got herself a weekend job, so she didn't play for a few years, but got talked into giving it another go by a friend Lisa Jordan (a former Llantwit Major player) at Barry Ravens, then Barry Sea View".

Mel was asked by other teams to play for them when she didn't have fixtures, taking every opportunity offered to play with stronger teams – to continue to improve her game. She captained the Sea View side in their most successful seasons, until eventually moving to Pencoed Phoenix.

She is full of praise for the Phoenix set-up, and says the "fantastic support" she had from the Phoenix players and coaches helped her gain more confidence and develop her game.

She caught the eye of the Wales manager, Ben Rose, at an open training session for the Ospreys, and he asked her to attend the WRU's Talent ID Day last September.

Mel soon had a phone call and was asked to train with the Welsh squad.

She was even drafted into the Wales' Sevens training squad – a format she has never played! She was selected to go to France with the Sevens and also made the cut to compete in their main focus competition, the Dubai Sevens, where they won the Plate final.

By now, Mel had also made the squad for the Ospreys.

Unfortunately, she picked up an injury when she was in Dubai and only played in their last game against the Dragons, but had a superb game, even scoring a cheeky try.

Mel's biggest achievement came when she got the news that she had made the Six Nations squad.

She has been selected as a flanker, a completely new position for her as she has previously played in the backs.

Her hard work and dedication to improve saw her on the bench for the Six Nations opener against England, where she won her first cap coming on as a replacement in the second half; and was part of the team that beat the England ladies for only the second time in the team's history.

Against Scotland, she also came on as a substitute.

Sister Steph said: "Her family and friends are so proud of Mel – her dedication to rugby has been unfaltering for years and it has now paid off with the honour of playing for her country".

Melissa Clay (left) celebrating Wales' win over England with Robyn Wilkins.
(Photograph by Julie Hancock).

'Town council bins are not for domestic use'

I AM writing to bring to the attention of readers a growing problem concerning domestic waste being placed in the rubbish bins, which are located on Town Council property and provided strictly for the purpose of the users of those areas.

They are definitely *not* for domestic refuse or recycling.

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, there is a duty of care placed on householders to dispose of their domestic waste in the correct manner.

This should be done either by placing it out on your kerbside on the appropriate day of collection – or, alternatively, by taking it to the local amenity site at Llandow or Barry.

Disposal of domestic refuse in any other way apart from these methods constitutes 'fly tipping', for which a fine can be imposed.

The other, and equally important, issue is that by disposing of domestic refuse, other than in the prescribed ways, leaves individuals even more susceptible to identity theft and fraud, as personal information is available for anyone to use.

I should also like to remind readers that the Vale of Glamorgan Council provides a weekly kerbside recycling service on Tuesdays (in Cowbridge and Llanblethian) and Fridays (Aberthin) together with fortnightly domestic rubbish collections on the same days of the week for those areas.

I hope that this information will encourage Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin residents to make full use of waste disposal and recycling facilities that are provided, and thank them in anticipation of both their co-operation and acting responsibly.

A Davies
(Town Clerk, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Council)

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Man jailed after bottle injures cyclist

A financial advisor suffered serious injuries when he was thrown over the handlebars of his bicycle after a passenger in a passing car threw a plastic Coke bottle at him.

The bottle went into the spokes of the front wheel of the machine, causing Mr John Mihell to fall to the road, where he broke an elbow and had a suspected fracture of his wrist, plus cuts and bruises.

The man responsible, 19-year-old Sunny Hannah had shouted to friends in the vehicle "Watch this, that was a good throw".

Hannah, of Laleston Close, Barry, was sent to a Young Offender institution for 12 months after he pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Recorder Ian Murphy QC said: "All four of you in the car were involved in unseemly, anti-social behaviour".

Mr Mihell suffered serious injuries and is not fully recovered.

The Recorder added: "This was an act of wanton violence, committed for your own amusement, to show off to friends."

He said Hannah had a relevant previous conviction involving him attacking a complete stranger.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on June 13, Mr Mihell was cycling along Lavernock Road.

Earlier, people had seen the car in which Hannah was a passenger driving erratically in Redlands Road, Penarth. Mr Mihell was cycling along when Hallah suddenly threw a Coke bottle which went between the front wheel spokes.

When Mr Mihell was thrown from his bicycle Hannah laughed, said Mr Trigg. When interviewed, Hannah claimed he was not responsible, and blamed another person in the vehicle, who was totally innocent but who was also interviewed by the police.

Mr Trigg said: "The final nail for Hannah was that his DNA was found on the bottle."

Hannah was said to have convictions for causing damage, theft, possessing an offensive weapon, possessing drugs, affray, and causing actual bodily harm.

The cycle, said Mr Trigg, which had a titanium frame, was a write-off, and had been worth £2,143.

In a statement, the victim said he had been in considerable pain and discomfort, had difficulty sleeping, and was unable to drive to work in west Wales.

Mr Trigg said: "The use of that bottle was tantamount to the use of a weapon."

Hannah's solicitor, Adam Sharp said; "It is accepted he was not initially forthcoming, but he had time to reflect and there is now a degree of remorse.

"It was an act of gross stupidity. He was foolhardy from a young age and had behavioural problems."

The sentence is to run consecutively to a 14-month sentence Hannah is currently serving for supplying heroin.

Man is warned by judge after drugs offences

A secondhand car dealer who sold drugs to fund his own habit has been jailed for eight months, sentence suspended for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Anthony Cronin, 36, was also made subject to a supervision order for a year and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Cronin, of Treharne Road, Barry, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply and possessing cocaine.

Judge Christopher Llewllyn-Jones, QC, told him: "You have to accept that the use of cannbis is unlawful. If you don't you could go to prison."

He said he had friends and a job.

The Judge told him: "Don't ruin your life, stop smoking drugs. I don't want to see you here again."

Cronin replied: "I don't want to see you again either."

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that on October 10 the police searched the defendant's address and found a quantity of cocaine in a tin and cannabis worth £370 in street deals.

They also discovered £640 in cash.

Cronin said the cocaine was for personal use and at the time said the cannabis was also for personal use. The cash, he said, was to pay his rent.

His solicitor Adam Sharp said: "He is well thought of by friends and family, and in recent years has turned his life around."

The amounts of drugs involved, he said, were not great and there were few aggravating features in the case.

"There was certainly a lack of sophistication. He is in a good, stable relationship, and is addressing deficiencies in his behaviour. This is a case where the court can draw back from immediate imprisonment," Mr Sharp added.

THE CARNE ARMS WILL BE BACK, AS 'SA BRAIN' OPTS FOR A MAKE-OVER

VILLAGERS in Llysworney had good news this week when SA Brain and Co Ltd announced plans to reopen the Carne Arms.

There had been concern among local residents that the pub appeared to be deteriorating after the popular country pub closed.

Now, the brewing company has confirmed plans to invest over £220,000 in the pub, and there are plans to reopen it soon as an "upmarket destination dining site".

Bruce Newman, the head of marketing for SA Brain, told The GEM that the search was now on for a tenant to take on the venture.

He explained that SA Brain has no standard template for country pubs: "We look at each one of our 230 pubs and work out what is best for its development."

The £220,000 will pay for new kitchens, remodelling and refurbishing the interior, and a makeover for the exterior.

The premises will not be expanded, as space is limited.

Mike Carey, retail marketing manager for SA Brain, said: "We will be offering support to the new tenant, but he or she will have a great deal of flexibility as regards a menu."

He hoped that there would be support from the village, adding: "It's a case of use it or lose it".

He said that a number of interested parties had been out to look at the site, as the refurbishment programme will be completed by the end of March.

Vale MP Alun Cairns welcomed the news, saying:

"I have been in regular contact with SA Brain, and they have assured me that the investment is going in to return the popular watering hole to its former glory with a high quality food offer.

"The villagers have been very patient whilst a new plan was developed, and I look forward to a pint or two once the pub has reopened."

Mike Carey concluded: "We are looking for the right operator to run the business and interested parties can contact *resourcing@sabrain.com* or call our dedicated recruitment line on 029 2033 4766."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Story of a heroine

I WAS recently invited to the St Mary Hill home of Mr Tom Harry, who has lived in the area for the whole of his life, and is extremely knowledgeable about St Mary Hill and the surrounding villages.

He invited me to read a book written by his friend Roger GK Penn of Carmarthen. Beautifully written, it is the story of a young schoolteacher, Sarah Jane Howell, who lost her life in the Llynfi River while saving one of her pupils from drowning on December 19, 1911.

The author has written a great deal of the St Mary Hill fair, assisted I am sure by Tom.

The title of the book is *Memories of Sarah Jane Howell, a Welsh heroine*.

Honoured posthumously by the Royal Humane Society and the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust and published by Penn-manship Projects Dolycwrt, Whitland, Carmarthenshire.

Disturbed from my reverie

ON Monday morning, February 16 my dogs became agitated and on investigating the reason, I found 50 or so dogs running through the field adjoining my home.

Huntsmen were riding along the road, then racing across the fields owned by the Penllyne Estate.

Should one of my cats have been out, goodness knows what might have happened.

There seems to be little that can be done to control that number of dogs.

Local WI hear of common thread in age old legends

LLANHARRY WI's January meeting was well attended, with everyone paying their much needed subscriptions – even those unable to attend, sent the money with someone else!

Our speaker gave us an insight into the birds in our gardens – the best way of feeding them, counting how many varieties we see, and the increasing and decreasing numbers over the last few years of the various species.

February's speaker could not have been more different: Eleanor Kapp was a very knowledgeable lady on a number of things. Her talk was entitled 'Rigmaroles and Ragamuffins' and concerned 'thread'.

She took a degree in needlework of all kinds many years ago, and also became a story teller. She discovered that thread and its equivalent was closely involved in stories, children's fairytales and legends and myths.

Sleeping Beauty, for instance, tells how the princess pricked her finger whilst spinning. In some cases, there are hundreds of variations of these stories, several quite saucy and very adult in nature.

She related several that were about spinning and weaving, whimsical and endearing in nature and all set in age old myths and legends. She had us all in the palm of her hand while speaking, a true story teller indeed, and a very interesting evening.

We meet again on March 3 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, Llanharry, where visitors are most welcome.

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FRIENDS OLD AND NEW ARE WELCOME AT SUNKISSED'S 10th BIRTHDAY PARTY!

IT was a fun evening at Sunkissed in Llantwit Major recently when the salon held its 10th anniversary celebration evening.

Owner Vicki Wiggins said: "It was great to see so many customers come along to celebrate with us and enjoy a glass of bubbly, meet up with friends, try a new treatment or two, and generally have a great time!"

Lee Harris, Jenifer Shakespear, and Steph Shakespear, all enjoying the atmosphere

Christina Sloan and Kathleen Coates – sharing a glass.

Vicki Wiggins, Anan Llewellyn, Liz Durrant and Claire Thomas enjoying the evening.

PICTURES by CLARE PRICE PHOTOGRAPHY

Brenda Thomas, Davina Beynon and Sophi Staniland.

Gillian Morgan enjoying a FaceMapping.

Andy Wiggins, Dewi Edwards and Andrew Bourner – even the boys enjoy a pamper.

Deborah Morgan and Sarah Barlow.

Judith Hanigan and Janice Foster.

Sian David, Yasmin Cuddy and Caroline Clews.

Emmy Bevan and Millie Wiggins were helpers.

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Maendy YFC climb the pyramid of panto prizes with camels and guile!

Some of the main characters: Christina Thomas, Connie Rees, Ieuan Rosser, Heather Jarvis, Harry Gibson and Holly Allen.

ABOVE: The cast with the winning shield, judge's award and technical achievement award.

A HECTIC week for Maendy YFC has rounded off three months of hard work and preparation for the annual YFC stage competition.

This year's production of *Camels and Guile Upon the Nile,* written by past member Richard Harris, had a well-supported dress rehearsal at Barry Memorial Hall which kick-started a weekend of pantomime madness.

The next stop was the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl which saw the seven young farmers' clubs in Glamorgan go head to head over three nights (February 12-14) for the opportunity to represent the county at the Welsh finals.

Wick and Maendy kicked off the pantomime competition in style, followed by Bridgend, Gelligaer and Llantrisant.

The final evening saw Gower and Neath take to the stage to round off a highly entertaining and successful weekend.

Maendy's efforts were rewarded with three trophies: Evan Thomas, Oliver Popham and Finn Torkington won the judge's award for their rendition of Bruno Mars' 'I want to be a billionaire'; the award for best technical production; and (most importantly) the winning shield for the best overall performance.

Attention now turns to the journey west for the Welsh round of the competition!

In just over a fortnight's time, the cast and entourage will take the show on the road, travelling to Swansea to challenge their counterparts from across Wales, hoping to do Glamorgan proud and add to Maendy's previous successes at this level in the pantomime competition.

Swansea Grand Theatre will host this year's Wales competition on March 7 - 8.

Maendy will be first on stage. For tickets, contact the box office of Swansea Grand Theatre.

For more information about Maendy YFC visit www.maendy.btck.co.uk, like 'Maendy YFC' on Facebook, or follow @MaendyYFC on Twitter.

Evan Thomas, Finn Torkington and Oliver Popham, with the judge's award.

20mph limit for Cowbridge

WITH reference to the recent GEM article, a speed limit of 20mph on roads in Cowbridge would benefit all residents.

Visitors and shoppers would have an improved experience of the town centre; and safety would be enhanced for all pedestrians.

Most drivers in Cowbridge are pedestrians for most of the time; drivers of through traffic would have to allow more time.

The replacement of the pedestrian lights by one or more zebra crossings would help to re-establish Cowbridge as a thriving and functioning market town.

Patrick Whelan,
St Hilary.

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Scarlets' rugby player found not guilty of punching man in nightclub

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AFTER retiring for four-and-a-half hours, a jury at Cardiff Crown Court unanimously cleared a Scarlets rugby player of allegations that he punched a man to the head, fracturing a cheekbone, during an incident in a Porthcawl nightclub.

Kyle Evans, 24, said he believed Jamie Smith was about to punch him and in self-defence "palmed" him in the face with his hand, above which was his arm in a splint.

Evans, of Beach Road, Pyle, was found not guilty of a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm. Prosecutor Mike Hammett said Mr Smith and his then fiancee had gone to the Porthcawl Hotel and later went to Streets Nightclub to celebrate the 2014 New Year.

They were sitting down when a man stumbled into them, causing his drink to go over Mr Smith's friend.

Mr Smith spoke to the man and it was alleged that Evans went across to assist, lost his temper and struck him on the left cheek, fracturing it.

Evans left the premises and a short time later was arrested.

Detective Constable Hugh Lewis said that when he interviewed Evans, he said Mr Smith had been abusive and aggressive, and because he believed he was about to be struck, he "palmed" him in the face.

He denied at any time striking him with a clenched fist.

Grwp Siarad Cymraeg Gwesty'r Arth (The Bear Hotel).

BOB bore Gwener ym Mhâr Cwtsh, 10am tan 11.30am; Gŵrp o siaradwyr a dysgwyr yn cyfarfod i sgwrsio yn y Gymraeg dan arweiniad Rhiannon Williams.

Croeso i unrhyw un.

The Bear Hotel Welsh Conversation Group

EVERY Friday morning in the Cwtsh Bar, from 10am till 11.30am, a group of Welsh speakers and learners meet to use their Welsh, under the leadership of Rhiannon Williams.

All are welcome.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: *Vale AM praises pioneering centre*

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Coun Elmore and members and staff of Recovery Cymru.

VOLUNTEERS and members of Barry's Recovery Cymru Centre, who organise activities for people recovering from substance misuse, have been praised by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

"It was great to meet such positive volunteers and members of this pioneering centre in Barry. I learned so much from their wisdom and experience. I congratulate Recovery Cymru on their initiative to bring this 'peer-led' service to Barry," she commented.

She is seen (*ABOVE*) with Coun Chris Elmore, staff and members of Recovery Cymru.

PACT meetings

ILLTYD PACT at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on Monday, February 23 at 3pm.

DYFAN PACT at The Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry on Sunday, March 1 at 7.30pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry on Monday, March 2 at 7pm.

COURT PACT at The Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6pm.

DEAF PACT at Station 20, Barry Fire Station, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

RHOOSE Coffee and a chat will be held at The Fox and Hounds, Llancarfan on Tuesday, February 24 at 11am.

PLYMOUTH PACT at Byrd Crescent Community Centre on Wednesday, March 4 at 6.30pm.

SULLY PACT at The Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue, Sully on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 or log onto *www.ourbobby.com*.

Llancarfan pupils put on Jurassic performance

ON Tuesday, February 10, paleontologists from Class 1 at Llancarfan Primary School took to the stage to entertain parents and pupils, sharing their knowledge of dinosaurs.

Their assembly was as a roaring success!

CH

Debut album by local band

BARRY band Back to November will release their debut album, *One Small Step* on March 14 at St Francis Hall, Barry at 7pm.

"We've been writing and recording for over a year and are very pleased with what we have produced. The album will be available via hard copy or on iTunes," said spokesman Edan Edwards.

"The album consists of nine tracks, all of which we wrote ourselves and recorded in StudioToy. The album was recorded, mixed, mastered and produced by Luke Prosser"

Tickets for the event are £4 standard entry (or £10 for entry and album).

Friends of the Earth collect info

BARRY & Vale Friends of the Earth recently held a successful meeting with representatives from across the Vale.

The representative from Rhoose Point provided information to help the group oppose further reckless housing development.

The representative from Cowbridge provided contacts and information to help the group oppose housing development at Darren Farm. Further greenfield development in the Vale must be stopped and our Government brought in, to oversee the development of a new town at Llandow.

The FoE group were pleased to hear that our Government has joined others in putting a stop to fracking – CO_2 madness which we have long opposed. Representatives from Barry were annoyed at the closure of recycling facilities and the unknown pollution which will come from burning waste in the huge Cardiff incinerator.

Several groups and individuals have provided Barry &Vale FoE with information concerning the closure of footpaths in the Rhoose/Penmark areas around the airport, including footpaths which Valeways has among its routes.

The group will continue to fight to keep footpaths open and to argue for better public transport, with improved facilities for cycling and walking,

KEITH STOCKDALE
(Barry&Vale FoE Coordinator)

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New tax powers will help meet housing needs...

LAST week, I tabled my supplementary Budget for this financial year for scrutiny and debate on March 10 in the Senedd; it accounts for changes that have been made to the Budget over the past year to meet priority areas and respond to pressures, such as in housing and health needs.

On the day I published the Budget, I announced an additional £5.8 million for social housing, which I allocated from our reserves to the delivery of affordable homes across Wales.

This includes funding for every local authority area in Wales, including £183,220 for the Vale of Glamorgan. In my statement accompanying this announcement, I said that investing in housing is a key part of our Wales infrastructure investment plan and will make a real difference to the lives of people across Wales, whilst also acting as an economic stimulus supporting growth and jobs.

On March 12, I look forward to welcoming Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, to the opening of the new social housing development on Thompson Street, with financial support from the Welsh Government.

Investing in housing is a key priority of the Welsh Government, so this latest announcement adds to the £5 million I approved in the autumn to support Home Improvement Loans.

Despite the significant financial constraints placed on our budgets, we will have invested an additional £10.8 million in housing from our reserves in 2014-15.

The Welsh Government has an ambitious target of building 10,000 affordable homes by May 2016 and we have already delivered almost 7,000 homes in this Assembly term.

We have also invested in the popular Help to Buy - Wales scheme, which helps first time buyers get a foot on the property ladder and we have supported local authorities with the Houses into Homes programme -bringing empty properties back into use as homes.

Lesley Griffiths AM also introduced the new Renting Homes (Wales) Bill last week, reminding us that one in three people now live in a rented home.

In her introduction to the Bill, she said it would result in much greater clarity and consistency in the rights and responsibilities of those who rent their homes, whether as a tenant or licensee, as well as the rights and responsibilities of landlords.

An important feature of this Bill is the help it will give to victims of domestic violence, targeting the perpetrators for evictions. The Bill also makes it possible for young people to rent, enhances succession rights and establishes a legal framework for supported housing.

Last week, I also launched the consultation for the new land transaction tax for Wales – the first Welsh tax for over 800 years.

In April 2018, the Stamp Duty Land Tax will be fully devolved to Wales and the income from this tax will be collected in Wales and will be the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

We are consulting on a replacement tax for Wales which affects people as home buyers and sellers, as builders and as businesses renting premises.

Already devolved to Scotland and with a major reform announced in the autumn statement by the UK Government, this tax will now be our responsibility.

We can help shape the new tax through this consultation with Assembly Members, passing this legislation in due course.

When I announced my principles for Welsh taxes, I made it clear that it is important to develop taxes which are fair to people and businesses and which support growth and jobs and help tackle poverty and support communities.

With new powers come new responsibilities – but the people of Wales can play their part in helping us to meet their needs.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

Vale Council coffers receive a £1.2m performance bonus

THE Vale Council has been awarded a grant of £1.2m by the Welsh Government in recognition of its high achievement for the 2013/14 financial year.

A council spokesman said: "The award relates to the council's 'outcome agreement', which covers five key areas of the organisation's work – supporting the local economy, increasing school attainment, improving the lives of older people, improving social housing, and reducing landfill.

"Payment of the grant award to the council is according to the level of achievement of its outcomes, as outlined within the agreement with full achievement securing the council an incentive grant of £1,232,000 each year".

In his review of the Vale's performance for 2013/14, the Minister for Public Services, Leighton Andrews, found that the council had fully achieved its agreed targets in four of these areas and partially achieved the remaining one.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "Welsh Government's recognition of our success in all five of our key areas of work serves to demonstrate that this is a high-achieving local authority.

"This success is a testament to the hard work of our officers who are continuing to deliver high quality services in a time of unprecedented financial pressure."

St David's Day at Age Connects

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and Vale is marking St Davids Day with a free cup of tea or coffee and traditional Welsh cake when clients come to The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, February 26, 9.30am to 12 midday.

This invitation is extended to anyone, so why not come along? Contact 01446 732385.

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Bethlehem gala concert proves an extra special charity occasion

WHEN every ticket is sold, it usually leads to something special and Saturday's charity concert at Bethlehem Church, Cefn Cribwr was exactly that.

Bridgend Male Choir had invited the Rhondda's Parc & Dare Brass Band to share the concert and it turned out to be an inspired choice.

The choir started with a Welsh selection, which included a rousing performance of John Guard's 'Men of Harlech' and moved into an opera and European selection, which included Verdi's 'Bandit's Chorus' and Kurt Lisman's 'Aus De Traube'.

Under musical director, Andrew Jones, the band entertained with Andrea Lewis's flugel horn solo from 'Over the Rainbow' and the uplifting Shostakovich' March from 'Suite for Variety Orchestra No 1'. The band completed three more items, and the first half drew to a close with the choir and band coming together to perform 'Llanfair'.

Compere Gareth Davies explained the connection between choir and band, with the choir's musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale and chorister husband Terry also being members of the band.

The choir continued with mixed items including 'Bui Doi' from *Miss Saigon*, featuring tenor soloist, Paul Carter.

Parc & Dare also entertained with aplomb. Gareth Maidment's euphonium solo by Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins, 'Benedictus' from *The Armed Man* was worth the entrance money alone, as was Jerry Herman's popular 'Hello Dolly', when the musicians sang along, as well as playing one verse.

The Armstrong & Snodlaigh 'Gwerzy' arranged by Brendan Breslin, was fantastic, building to a musical crescendo, followed by another treat.

Many had never seen the very large and complex marimba (a xylophone type instrument) which was played by teenagers, Alex Maxted and Nathaniel Alcolado in their rendition of Evelyn Glennie's 'Little Prayer'. A standing ovation followed before the band and choir closed proceedings with the ever popular 'Gwahoddiad'.

Compere, Gareth Davies, had earlier acknowledged the work of chorister, Tom James, a Cornelly resident and choir president, Paul Porter in pulling this concert together. Paul, a Prostate Cymru ambassador, expressed his delight with the evening's fundraising.

Choristers wish the band every success at the Welsh Open Brass Band competition in Porthcawl next weekend.

DAVID T BURT

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London Labour pledges to hand over fracking powers to Welsh Government

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Welsh Government's moratorium on fracking could only last a few months – were Labour to win the May general election .

In a statement issued Monday (February 16) Labour said that – if elected – it will devolve powers to Wales that will enable the Welsh Government to make any decisions on fracking.

The statement said: "Licencing powers relating to the extraction and exploitation of onshore shale gas will be devolved following a Labour victory in May, giving the people of Wales full power over fracking.

"In the meantime, Planning Minister Carl Sargeant will put an immediate moratorium on fracking in Wales".

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I welcome Labour's fracking pledge; the devolution of licensing powers to Wales will give us more control on this important issue and a moratorium addresses the continuing uncertainties surrounding the controversial fracking process."

The Conservative Leader and regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, welcomed the decision to impose a moratorium on fracking.

However, he said that the move should be coupled with a community right to 'opt-in' where fracking was welcomed, but stressed the need to ensure that local residents' views were paramount in any discussions on shale gas extraction, or 'fracking'.

He noted that three sites in the Vale already have planning permission for test drilling, but these will be subject to the moratorium.

Mr Davies said: "For some time, I have been calling on the Welsh Government to bring forward robust guidance for local authorities on fracking and the decision to introduce a moratorium is a sensible one.

"It is clear that shale gas exploitation has a contribution to make to a long-term economic plan for Wales' energy generation, but until its impact on our environment and homes is properly assessed, we need a moratorium.

"I have met with community groups opposed to fracking in the Vale on numerous occasions and clearly they will be delighted with this announcement.

"The views of the local people likely to benefit from fracking, or who will be affected by fracking, must be paramount and that's why I believe that communities should have a say, including a right to 'opt-in' where schemes are welcomed by residents."

A spokesman for Mr Davies added that the Conservative Leader favoured devolving powers relating to fracking to Wales, and that discussions with Westminster on the matter were "ongoing".

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, February 21 at Cowbridge Town Hall, 10am – 11am. No appointments are necessary.

For further information please contact Camilla Beaven on 02920 898469 or Camilla.beaven@wales.gov.uk.

How to 'upcycle' old and tired items of furniture

THE St Nicholas Women's Institute February meeting in St Nicholas Church hall opened with an introduction to chalk painting techniques.

Jan Williams had brought along two small bedside cupboards to demonstrate what could be achieved – one which she had painted earlier and the other to show how easily she had created such an attractive piece of furniture.

Jan explained that this type of paint was an ideal way to upcycle old and tired wooden items and give them a new lease of life.

Sanding or stripping was rarely necessary and the paint was suitable for use on other surfaces, too. Members were full of ideas for their own kitchen chairs, chests and cupboards.

After refreshments, president Fran Mitchell noted news in the federation letter. Agreement was reached for an outing in June and another in August and a visit to a restaurant in Barry to celebrate the WI centenary.

Plans are also in hand for a vintage tea party in July to raise funds for charity, with members raiding old trunks and wardrobes for fashion ideas.

The meeting on March 5 will celebrate our Welsh Heritage.

W LAVE

Local solicitors promote the Free Will Writing Service with Marie Curie Nurses Sue Sullivan and Mags Cawthorn and Phae Comber-Jones, Marie Curie Legacy Advisor.

Marie Curie promotes free Will writing offer

MARIE CURIE has joined forces with solicitor firms in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff to offer a free Will writing scheme to people aged 55 years and over.

Representatives from Griffiths Ings Property Lawyers, Leo Abse and Cohen Solicitors, Lucas Law Solicitors, Passmores Solicitors and Wendy Hopkins Family Law Practice visited the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice in Penarth earlier this month as part of a partnership to offer the Marie Curie free Will writing scheme.

The initiative, which runs until Thursday, April 30, offers people the opportunity to make or amend a basic Will, with the option to include a gift to support Marie Curie's work in the future. Gifts in Wills fund the equivalent of one in two Marie Curie nurses, supporting their work across Wales and in the Cardiff & The Vale Hospice.

Among those to have already taken advantage of the Marie Curie free Will writing scheme is long-time supporter Geoff Mortimer of Llantwit Major.

Geoff Mortimer has decided to leave a gift for Marie Curie in his Will. His late wife, Jenny, was also a supporter of the charity.

Choosing to leave a gift to Marie Curie in his Will was an easy decision for Geoff, whose late wife Jenny was a prolific fundraiser for Marie Curie before losing her battle with cancer in 2009. Geoff has since taken over the fundraising mantle, becoming one of Wales' most dedicated volunteers.

Explaining his decision to leave a gift to Marie Curie in his Will, Geoff explained: "It's something that you can do without it affecting your finances immediately. I can leave a goodly sum to Marie Curie in my Will, but I couldn't donate that money now because my assets are tied up in my house. I can be generous and know it won't affect my family in the future. My children know about it and are fully in favour of it.

"Only last week I managed to convince one of my friends to sign up to the free Will service, and I would encourage others to do the same."

Phae Comber-Jones, legacy advisor for Marie Curie, said: "Using our free Will writing service will ensure you can get a basic Will written by a solicitor and guarantee that your family, friends and others benefit exactly as you wish.

"Although there is, of course, no obligation to do so, leaving a gift to Marie Curie in your Will can help ensure that our nurses can continue to provide free care and support to people with a terminal illness, and their families, in Wales."

For more information about the Free Will Writing Scheme or to learn more about this special way of remembering the charity, please contact Legacy Advisor, Phae Comber-Jones. Email: phae.comber-jones@mariecurie.org.uk or telephone: 02920 426045 or 07545 422683.

For more information about Marie Curie's services please visit www.mariecurie.org.uk.

AM launches Daffodil Appeal

VALE AM Jane Hutt sponsored the launch of Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal on February 11 in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, see article on page 17.

The Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie's flagship fundraising drive, encourages people to donate to the appeal and wear an iconic daffodil during February and March.

Jane Hutt said: "It gives me immense pride to wear my daffodil and support the charity's 2015 Great Daffodil Appeal. I hope people across Wales will donate and wear a daffodil and help Marie Curie continue to make a real difference to people living with a terminal illness in Wales."

To find out how you can get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or call 0845 601 3107.

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NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Bee patient and get ready for a challenge!

NOT much sign of external bee activity just yet, but this is due to the low temperatures we are experiencing.

Spring is beginning to reveal itself and some blossoms are available to the bees. The days are decidedly longer now and given warmer days (at least 10°c) the colonies will respond and a new season will be under way.

There have been days when external bee activity was observed, but this was the bees taking cleansing flights– i.e. voiding their bowels; the bees can retain their body waste for a considerable time and keeping the hive clean is something they strive to do.

No doubt some colonies will not have made it through the winter. Varroa mites could well be one cause, another is the internal parasite Nosema, and this will weaken a colony and bring about its demise.

Starvation is yet another element that can bring a colony down.

Preparing a colony of bees for the winter requires input from the beekeeper. Sufficient stores are a must and you have to provide supplementary food, if on one of your inspections your experience tells you that the colony is not sufficient to meet the winter ahead.

The summer of 2014 was a good one for all insects. Fonmon bees gathered in plenty of nectar and pollen, so very little feeding has had to be done.

Bees settling down for the winter will not have the busy life their sisters had, who being active every day were lucky to live for about six weeks.

Our winter bees, by contrast, should survive for five months or more.

So, the beekeeper has done her/his best to prepare the colonies – will we get a good spring? Will we get a good summer? Will all the colonies have survived? As ever, we have to be optimistic and be patient. Plenty of challenges await any newcomer to the craft of beekeeping, but it is a worthwhile activity and the bees need all the help we can give them.

HAROLD WILLIAMS.

Is anyone looking to share a life of Riley?

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend were hoping that Valentine's Day would bring a lifelong female companion for 11-year-old Riley, who is on the hunt for a family home which he can share with a gentle female dog.

Riley the Jack Russell Terrier is quite the ladies' man and has been pulling on the heartstrings of a number of female canines at the rehoming centre, but has so far failed to meet that perfect person to take him home.

He's not a fan of male dogs and is always kennelled with female dogs. Sadly for him, he has seen all his lady friends find loving homes as he patiently waits for a happy new home of his own. .

Riley is best suited to a quiet home with children over 14 years of age and he's looking for a family who can continue with his training and understand his needs. He also needs a loving female canine companion who can keep him on his toes and become a lifelong partner.

"Riley is a super sweet boy, who really needs a kind female dog he can settle into family life with. He needs a loving family who will understand his needs and support his blossoming friendship."

Call our Bridgend Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292. We are open every day between 12pm-4pm, apart from Wednesdays, or visit the centre at Court Colman, Pen-Y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG. Linda Feagan, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer.

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THOUSAND YEARS OF TEACHING CELEBRATED

RECENTLY, 50 ex-staff of St Cyres School Penarth were invited to tour the new school building by headteacher Dr Jonathan Hicks.

"The group had, between them, served the school for nearly a thousand years – a remarkable dedication to the pupils who had passed through the school," Dr Hicks said.

He added: "We wanted to show the staff of previous years our brand-new school building. They were amazed; several said they wished they could come back and teach in such wonderful facilities!

"People representing the history of the school had a chance to see the present and future of the school, and I am delighted so many of them took up the offer to attend."

Tributes are paid to local pop icon Steve

THE national press issued lengthy tributes to Steve Strange last week, after the former Visage frontman died of a heart attack, at the age of 55.

The Guardian, in fact, devoted two full plages to his life and influence on the music and fashion scene, although Steve, real name Steven John Harrington, had lived quietly in Porthcawl for many years.

Stag Marks has chronicled the local music scene in the Porthcawl area for many years and knew Steve. He paid the following tribute to a larger-than-life character who burned brightly in the 1980s music and fashion scene.

THE pop world has lost one of its most iconic characters, Porthcawl's Steve Strange, who has passed away aged 55.

His career started in the late 70s and took off when he opened The Blitz Club in Soho, London, with DJ Rusty Egan, where he started a dress culture which became known as the New Romantic Movement.

It kick-started bands like Duran Duran, Boy George, Spandau Ballet, Adam Ant and more.

Steve would act as doorman and, famously, once turned away Mick Jagger because he was not trendy enough.

Steve's band, Visage, had a worldwide hit with 'Fade to Grey' and featured Midge Ure, while David Bowie asked Steve to appear on his 'Ashes to Ashes' video.

I first met Steve in the late 90s with my own band Secret Army at a gig.

He came on my radio show, as at the time he was trying hard to make a comeback, and even recorded one of my songs.

It was great to see him back in the limelight over the last few years, on breakfast TV, touring and bringing out a new Visage album, which makes it all the more sad that he's gone.

I'll miss his "strange" phone calls at odd times, telling me his plans, and seeing him around. My thoughts go to his family, but his music and fashion trends will live on!

Homeowners are warned: *beware burglars!*

A SPIKE in burglaries in the Vale and Bridgend areas has prompted police to warn home-owners to be vigilant against opportunistic burglars.

Detectives believe the break-ins have mainly taken place during the day and into the evening, with the burglars forcing entry though a rear door or window.

Detective Inspector Sue Sidford said: "We are working to do all we can to identify the people responsible and prevent further incidents from taking place. We cannot be everywhere at all times, which is why we would ask residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police immediately."

Anyone with information on burglaries is urged to report it to South Wales Police by calling 101.

NHS LANDS £4m BOOST

NHS services in Cardiff and the Vale will receive a £4m funding boost, Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford has said.

The capital funding for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board will upgrade the IT network at medical sites, including buying new computers and replace medical equipment, including introducing the latest beds for patients.

The health board is one of the largest NHS organisations in Wales, employing around 14,000 staff. It provides health services to a population of almost 500,000 people living in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Professor Drakeford said: "Despite cuts to the overall Welsh budget, we are determined to continue to invest in our NHS to make sure patients have access to the latest technology, and our hospitals and medical sites are maintained to the highest standard."

Terms & Conditions - 2 return flight tickets to Orlando (MCO) flying from Cardiff International Airport on the 29th August 2015 departing Orlando on 11th Sept 2015. The flight must be booked by March 27th 2015. Subject to availability at the time of booking. The winner must be one of the passengers on the return flight. The prize is not transferable and there is no cash alternative will be offered and cannot be transferred to a package holiday. The winner and their travelling companions are responsible for ensuring they hold a valid passport to travel and any necessary visa, and hold the adequate travel insurance. The prize does not include the cost of travel insurance, spending money or any other items or expense not specifically stated within the prize description. All such costs/expenses will be the responsibility of the winner and their travel companies. The prize is subject to Thomas Cook's own booking conditions in addition to these competition terms and conditions. *Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion • Only one voucher per transaction • Offer valid on 22nd February 2015 only.

Out and About with The GEM

FUNDRAISER'S CONCERT FOR DIABETES CHARITY

MICHAEL JACKSON impersonator Navi will lead entertainment at the Memo Arts Centre, Barry on Sunday, March 22, supported by other special guest tributes to Bruno Mars and Olly Murs – to help raise funds for health charity Diabetes UK Cymru.

Ely's Leanne Emmerson (30) a keen fundraiser for the charity, hopes it will be a fun way to help support the 182,000 people living with diabetes in Wales.

She explained: "I've been living with Type 1 diabetes since I was 22 years old and I know what a huge impact it can have on your life. I'm always trying to think up new ideas to help raise funds to help other people living with diabetes across Wales. I'm a huge Michael Jackson fan so this concert seemed like a great idea."

Doors open at 5.30pm; tickets £15, can be purchased on 01446 738622, or online www.ents24.comor. Diabetes UK Cymru is also offering VIP tickets for £20. Call 029 2066 8276 or email wales@diabetes.org.uk.

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Monday 5.30pm
Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 5HU
Beverley 07912 172674

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Monday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Christchurch Methodist Church, Ogmore Vale
Steph 07584 563896

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesday 5.30pm
Lesser Hall, Town Hall Square, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ
Irene 01656 861648

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
The Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Next To The Old Cinema, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR
Lorraine 01656 734710

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Tuesdays 7:30pm
St Marys Catholic Church Hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend
Graham 07475 865005

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30 pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Wednesday 9.30am
Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BD.
Gaynor 01656 788763

Thursdays 9.30am
Nolton Church Hall Merthyr Mawr Road Bridgend
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

Thursdays 9:30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club The Broad Shoard
Rob - 07708 941279

Thursdays 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL
Nicola - 01446 740394

Thursday at 5.30pm
Pencoed RFC Felindre Road, Pencoed
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

Thursday - 5:30pm
Scout Hall, Minerva Street Bridgend
Rhian - 07837 280013

Thursdays 5:30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry - Annamarie 01446 736534

Saturdays 9:30am
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What's on and where in and around your area...

Labour surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Jeff Evans, Pamela Drake and Stuart Egan will hold their regular advice surgery on Saturday, February 21 from 10am to 11am in the small community room at Barry Library, Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

Beach clean

THIS Sunday, February 22, Friends of Barry Beaches will hold a beach clean at Whitmore Bay beach, on Barry Island from 3pm adjacent to Marco's Cafe. All litter picking equipment will be supplied.

Free advice

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, February 23 (9.30am-11.30am). No appointment is needed.

Contact 01446 732385. Home visits can be arranged.

Step back in time

GLAMORGAN Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Station will be open on February 25 from 2pm – 4pm.

Schools are beiing invited to arrange for year-6 children to visit the museum as 'evacuees' with their own gas masks and boxes for a trip back to the 1940s.

On February 26 at 7.30pm there will be three 20-minute Great War talks by Rosemary Chaloner, Alun Salisbury (both of Cardiff) and Alun Robertson (Barry) with the opportunity to ask questions.

Rosemary will explore how wars affect women and how World War 1 changed the structure of society where women were no longer confined to the home.

Dementia talk

DINAS POWYS Voluntary Concern, in association with the Alzheimer's Society, is holding a dementia awareness evening in Lee Hall, Britway Road on Thursday, February 26 between 6pm and 8pm.

This session is open to all who wish to learn more about dementia and is free of charge. Dementia describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.

Karen Collins from Alzheimer's Society will be speaking on this important topic.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, February 25 at 10.30am, it is the Coffee Shop Strollers!

Meet at Romilly Café, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, February 26 at 10.30am, meet at Llantwit Major Railway Station car park for a walk around Llantwit lanes.

Artist's talk

ON, February 26, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes prizewinning artist John Hoare, who will give a demonstration of architectural painting in watercolour.

He has been described as one of the most exciting watercolourists in Britain today, has won various painting prizes, and published numerous DVDs on watercolour.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of activities, see *www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.*

Planting a seed

'THE Life and Work of a Plant Health and Seed Inspector In Wales', an illustrated talk by Kevin Izzard to the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society, will take place in Llantonian Hall on, February 25, at 7.30pm.

He is the higher phytophthora project officer at the Food and Environment Research Agency based in Swansea, and has lectured in horticulture at Pencoed College.

He will be happy to give advice on any garden problems.

All are welcome. The hall is situated on the Boverton Road behind the library at the back of the rugby club car park. Admission is free.

Lent Lunches

A NEW round of Lent lunches is to be held in All Saints' Church, Park Road, Barry on four Thursdays, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, inclusive from 12pm to 1.30pm. They will include, as usual, a choice of soups, crusty bread and a selection of cheeses, tea or coffee and a raffle ticket. Admission is £5.

Otago Class

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale Ageing Well Project in Vale Of Glamorgan is starting an Otago class at The Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Mondays (2pm-3pm). Further information is available on 01446/732385.

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National Assembly beats Commons and Lords in rugby clash

THE National Assembly's rugby team swept aside the House of Commons and Lords at Cardiff Arms Park in a resounding 33-12 victory, in what was dubbed the 'real' Wales-England showdown.

The politicians returned to the Senedd and Westminster battered and bruised – but boosted by the thousands raised for Bowel Cancer UK from their Parliamentary clash.

It was the curtain-raiser to the Six Nations clash between Wales and England. The event marked the ninth annual fixture to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK.

And it was the hosts who emerged triumphant, with the National Assembly XV outplaying their Commons and Lords counterparts to claim a 33-12 win, their fourth in a row.

After leading 19-0 at half time at Cardiff Arms Park, the hosts had to withstand a comeback from the Westminster side before they eased away in the fourth quarter.

Andrew RT Davies, the Conservative leader of the opposition in the Assembly, said he was delighted with the performance of his side – particularly their fifth try, a team effort which went straight through the London visitors' defensive line.

Mr Davies was joined in the Assembly side by Plaid Cymru's Ynys Môn AM Rhun Ap Iorwerth, who lined up – appropriately – on the left wing.

Assembly rugby chairman, Andrew RT Davies AM, said:

"Over the years the team has raised more than £10,000 for Bowel Cancer UK and I am proud to be involved.

"The Assembly team was set up in 2006 by Glyn Davies, who was an AM at the time.

"Glyn overcame bowel cancer and wanted to raise awareness of the disease and personally demonstrate how survivors could go on to lead a full and active life after being so ill. I think that's a message we can all support."

"On behalf of Assembly rugby I would also like to thank Cardiff Blues for making the stadium available to us."

Deborah Alsina, chief executive of Bowel Cancer UK commended the teams and the game organisers on their work saying,

"We are incredibly grateful to the National Assembly Rugby team for their support over the years, it means a lot to us. Over 41,500 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year and it remains the UK's second biggest cancer killer."

Free Parentalk course at church

A FREE six week parenting course begins at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on February 24 for parents of children up to early teenage years.

Parentalk is split into six sessions, a mixture of video content and group discussion from 9.15am-11.15am and a free creche will be provided.

For details, contact Leonie Hain on 01446 775048.

BOOK WORMS WANTED!

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to work in the Oxfam Shop in Penarth, which has recently had an influx of book donations.

Jayne Luxton, shop manager, said: "It's brilliant that we have had so many books donated recently. Now we urgently need new volunteers to help us.

"They will need to be able to volunteer for at least a half day a week, and be willing to be trained by our current book volunteer team".

***Contact Jayne Luxton on* 029 2070 6358 for further information.**

Silent auction

ST Curig's Church, Porthkerry, is organising another fundraising evening to cover the cost of repairing its unique organ – a silent auction at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, on Friday, February 27, from 7pm.

Entry (£3) includes a glass of wine.

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Cardiff and Vale college provides unrivalled facilities

STUDENTS studying at Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) from September will be among the first to benefit from a £45m investment into sector-leading education and training facilities for the region.

In the heart of the city centre, just a five-minute walk from Cardiff Central Station, the college's brand new city centre campus will become home to unrivalled facilities including a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) centre; a performance theatre; recording studios; Apple design studios; commercial salon and spa; employment and progression centre; fine dining training restaurant and world-class teaching and learning space.

One of the largest colleges in the country, CAVC has 20,000 people studying across sites in Cardiff and the Vale every year.

A CAVC spokesperson said: "The success of those students has continued to go from strength to strength with 86 per cent of learners achieving their main qualification in 2014 – one of the best records in the sector."

Having chosen from the range of 29 different AS and A-Level subjects on offer – from law and graphic design to business studies and chemistry – Cameron Patterson is just one of the 750 students from last year who went on to study at universities across the UK.

"When I moved back from China I had a few options in terms of where to study," said the former A-Level student.

"After speaking with my family and hearing about the excellent quality of teaching and friendly atmosphere, as well as taking a look at the college website, I knew Cardiff and Vale College was the place for me.

"My main goal was to get into university and with the help of tutors, as well as the large range of resources available, it's made the process a straightforward one. I now have a place to study a four-year MSc course in Natural Sciences at Lancaster University, one of the top 10 universities in the UK."

For Sofia Stewart, opting for one of the large range of career-focused courses proved to be the right path for her; helping to not only develop her skills but to also provide her with the right qualifications and experience to progress straight into a career.

"It all started with my diploma in engineering and design which I also studied at Cardiff and Vale College," said the BSc Aircraft Engineering student.

"When I spoke to someone about work experience, they strongly recommended the college's IATA facility. I work on real aircraft as part of the course!

"I've met really influential people in my time here. they've shown me how important and rewarding this career can be."

Book your place for September and follow in the footsteps of the 78 per cent of last year's learners who progressed on to further study, university or employment within just two months of completing their studies – you could be next!

Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal launched at the Senedd

MARIE CURIE'S annual Great Daffodil Appeal is officially under way in Wales after a launch event at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay last week.

The Great Daffodil Appeal is Marie Curie's flagship fundraising campaign, and this year's appeal was launched by Deputy Health Minister, Vaughan Gething AM, and Marie Curie's chief executive Dr Jane Collins.

Each year the appeal encourages people to donate and wear the charity's iconic daffodil throughout February and March. Money raised through the Great Daffodil Appeal helps fund the charity's work supporting people living with a terminal illness, and their families, throughout Wales as well as in the Cardiff and The Vale Hospice in Penarth.

The event provided a stage to showcase some of the charity's work in Wales, including the innovative 'South Wales Helper Service'.

The initiative sees volunteers paired with people affected by terminal illness, offering them support and companionship.

Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething AM pictured with Marie Curie Senior nurses Marilyn Parfitt, Alana Lavin and Maura Williams.

Those in attendance heard from Jo Parry, who runs the South Wales Helper Service, as well as Jenny Latham, who is currently receiving support from a helper volunteer.

The event also saw some of Wales' top fundraising volunteers honoured for their efforts supporting the charity. The 'Outstanding Contribution to Fundraising in Wales' award was presented to the CarTen100 group, who raised more than £82,000 for Marie Curie through their annual 100-mile Cardiff to Tenby charity cycle ride.

Meanwhile, Arlene Smith was named as Fundraiser of the Year (west Wales), Barbara Norbury won the Fundraiser of the Year (north Wales) title and Fundraiser of the Year (south Wales) was accepted by Wyndham Perkins on behalf of the Perkins family.

Simon Jones, head of policy and public affairs, Wales for Marie Curie, said: "We are pleased to have the support of our Assembly Members as we launch this year's Great Daffodil Appeal – an appeal that raises vital funds to support our work in homes across Wales, as well as the Cardiff and The Vale Hospice in Penarth.

"Every year the people of Wales never cease to amaze us with their generosity and support for our Great Daffodil Appeal, and I'm sure this year will be no different as people recognise the importance of the work we carry out.

"On behalf of Marie Curie, I would like to thank all those who continue to donate and enable us to keep supporting people affected by terminal illness across Wales."

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Top chefs help to raise 125k for Ty Hafan on a tasty gourmet night!

A SMALL army of star chefs from in and around Wales have successfully raised over £125,000 for Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice in the 'Chefs' Night Out' dinner at Cardiff's Parc Thistle Hotel.

The event included an auction of chef's services, which raised £95,000, with 2014 Masterchef Champion Ping Coombes receiving the highest bid of £15,000, to create a dinner party at the bidder's home.

The 14-strong culinary cast of chefs volunteering their time and skills included top chefs Hywel Jones, James Sommerin, Stephen Terry and Will Holland.

Hosted and supported by The Parc Thistle Hotel for the second time, the event, which is organised by David Loosemore and Huw Edwards, has now raised over £425,000 for Tŷ Hafan since its first staging in 2010.

David Loosemore, whose eight-year-old daughter, Bella also benefits from the charity's services, said: "The night went incredibly smoothly and that is thanks to our dedicated team and the skill and camaraderie of our chefs.

"We have raised a vast amount of money for this wonderful cause and Huw and I can't thank our team enough. Special mention must also go to our guest of honour, Katie Palmer, who regularly attends Tŷ Hafan. Her words touched the room and I'm sure contributed to bidders digging that little bit deeper."

Huw Edwards said: "We would like to offer a huge thank you to all the amazing chefs, the suppliers, the hotel and, of course, all of the guests who have helped to raise an incredible amount for Tŷ Hafan."

Ben Underwood, general manager of The Parc Thistle Hotel said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have supported Chefs' Night Out and are so chuffed with the amount raised. It is particularly fitting for us, as Tŷ Hafan is our official charity this year, we couldn't be happier with this success."

Teenager Katie Palmer and her mum, Lisa, from Tonyrefail were two other very special guests. Katie, 17, was referred to Tŷ Hafan when she was 13 and describes the children's hospice as: "A wonderful, loving place and every member of staff is so truly welcoming and comforting."

Katie suffers from a life-threatening heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and has been in and out of hospital hundreds of times since she was a baby.

She enjoyed a makeover before the event thanks to John Lewis and the Vanilla Rooms in Cardiff and Stardust Boutique in Swansea.

Jeremy Jackson, Tŷ Hafan's director of fundraising and marketing, said: "Chefs' Night Out is an innovative event providing guests with an exclusive, world-class gourmet experience, combined with an opportunity to support the vital work of Tŷ Hafan.

"The success of the event is dependent on the generosity of top chefs, many of whom possess Michelin Stars; Welsh businesses and, of course, the great Welsh public. Inspired by Tŷ Hafan's care for his daughter Bella, David and his close friend Huw have created an exceptional fundraising event that has already raised in excess of £425,000 for Tŷ Hafan.

"This is a phenomenal contribution and Chefs' Night Out is making a significant difference to the care we can provide. We are incredibly grateful for their unstinting commitment to, and support for, Tŷ Hafan."

***The Chefs' Night Out 2015 line-up was**: James Sommerin – Restaurant James Sommerin; Stephen Terry – The Hardwick; Roger Jones – The Harrow at Little Bedwyn; Duncan Barham – The Grove; Will Holland – Coast; Hywel Jones – Lucknam Park Hotel and Spa; Richard Davies – Manor House Hotel; Will Guthrie – Buckland Manor; Bryan Webb – Tyddyn Llan; Sian Rees – Sosban; Mark Jordan – Ocean Restaurant at the Atlantic Hotel and Mark Jordan at the Beach; David Kelman – Ellenborough Park; and Ping Coombes – special guest chef and Masterchef Champion 2014; Matt Smith – Llys Meddyg (Newport) Pembrokeshire.*

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WESSEX GARAGES of Cardiff are proud of their range of Nissan vehicles (*see advert on page 40 for more details*).

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The next level Acenta, available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine, comes with sporty 17" alloy wheels, front fog lights, rear privacy glass and a leather steering wheel and gear stick.

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The Acenta Premium, which is available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine, as well as the 1.6 turbo engine in four wheel drive, automatic or manual, offers sports seats with premium seat fabric, new NissanConnect with 5.8" touch screen, colour reversing camera and a Nissan Design Studio Personalised Interior Pack in a choice of black, red, white or yellow applied to centre console, gear stick, air vent rings, door trim, seat insets and stitching on meter hood, steering wheel, gear stick and seats.

The top-of-the-range Tekna, available in a 1.2 dig-T petrol engine, 1.6 automatic petrol engine or the 1.5 diesel engine as well as the 1.6 turbo engine in four wheel drive, automatic or manual, offers 17" urban alloy wheels, premium leather seats, heated front seats as well as safety shield technology, I-Key with Stop/Start push button and automatic lights and wipers.

All models of the Juke are available in a variety of colour options too so you can choose something to suit your personal tastes.

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Much-anticipated adaptation is Fifty Shades of boredom!

IT'S no surprise when a best-selling book finds its way onto cinema screens, but when a best-selling book becomes a phenomenon, then the chances of that book becoming a film are even higher.

It's happened to *Harry Potter*, it's happened to *Twilight*, it's happened to *The Hunger Games*, and now (with a different audience in mind) it has happened to *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

EL James' steamy series has sold over 100 millions books worldwide, with the arrival of the film eagerly awaited by its readers.

It tells the story of Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson), a literature student who interviews wealthy Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). When they spark, they embark upon a relationship that soon takes a turn for the interesting when Anastasia discovers Christian's penchant for being in control...

A quick note to the marketing bods; films are traditionally released on a Friday – so when the marketing for *Fifty Shades of Grey* states proudly the film opens 'on Valentine's Day' this is a blatant mistrust.

Perhaps the fact that the film opened on Friday the 13th is more apt, as it is a pretty abject film – painfully dull, nowhere near as racy as you have been told, and it falls short in nearly all departments.

The fact that the book's origins lay in *Twilight* fan-fiction is incredibly apparent here; missing that series' reliance on long, 'smouldering' looks? Well there's plenty to savour here in lieu of any real dialogue that pushes the story on – after all, why bother with words when a lip being bitten or a cold hard stare can do so much more?

You almost feel for the talent involved in this, as they try to make something worthy, yet fall short. It doesn't help that the man the film is built around, the ubiquitous Mr Grey, is filled out by a badly miscast Jamie Dornan.

Dornan is a decent actor, but he seems out of place and awkward at times, sometimes looking like a 15-year-old boy who has been told to take the bins out else he won't get any pocket money. He tries, but ultimately it's not enough, lacking the detached coldness that

by GARETH JAMIESON
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the character should have in order to convince you, and instead being a controlling bore.

His co-star Dakota Johnson fares a little better; initially her character's awkwardness grates as Johnson struggles to give the simpering Anastasia any personality; but as the character comes out of her shell, so too does Johnson, and she offers a solid turn that hints at potential – her performance undone by having her do very little other than remove her clothes.

Sam Taylor-Johnson's direction is suitably artistic, if a little lacking in substance, while Kelly Marcel's script is stuffed full of dialogue that, as Harrison Ford once said to George Lucas, "you can type... but you can't say it".

The film's story is basically a contract negotiation, which is as painfully dull as it sounds, with sub-plots teased and referenced without coming close to any sense of resolution.

Mr Grey has 'business problems' (the main problem being that no-one knows just what it is he actually does), a meeting with a figure from his past goes unseen and passed over despite being key to the plot.

The expansion of these wouldn't have cured all of the film's ills, but would have made for a more layered story.

Even the much hyped sex scenes fail to really spark, with the film lacking the highly-charged nature of, say, *9½ Weeks* and being far too stylised; there is no immediacy, no palpable passion, instead the key foundation of

the whole shebang flounders due to its sterilised and over-stylised nature.

Oddly for a film whose target audience is women, there is little equality in terms of nudity, with Johnson laid bare (literally) for all to see while Dornan simply removes his shirt a few times; in fact the entire film's message feels curiously off-kilter – Grey may seem to be in charge but as the film progresses it's Anastasia who holds the power, thus making Grey quite a poor dominant when you think about it.

Fans of the book will no doubt lap up James' leaden prose made into live-action – and with the film having pocketed a very impressive $235 million worldwide in its opening weekend, then expect to see the other two books from the series on the big screen sooner rather than later – but *Fifty Shades of Grey's* woeful and dull story will earn no praise from the uninitiated.

VERDICT – A shockingly poor film, that has no engaging story nor dialogue, *Fifty Shades of Grey* is a film that seems intent on shocking but ends up being as sexy as a wet lettuce. Jamie Dornan is miscast, Dakota Johnson impresses, but the lingering aftertaste of the film is trashy and boring. Avoid at all costs.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Nine ½ Weeks* (1986), *Twilight* (2008).

Mudiad Meithrin yn mabwysiadu enw parth .cymru

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Dywedodd Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Prif Weithredwr Mudiad Meithrin: "Trwy fabwysiadu enw parth .cymru, mae'r Mudiad yn gwireddu un o'r targedau sydd wedi eu hamlinellu yn Dewiniaith (pwynt 3.9) sef gweledigaeth Mudiad Meithrin am y 10 mlynedd nesaf."

Mudiad Meithrin switches domain name to .cymru

MUDIAD Meithrin is pleased to announce that it has adopted .cymru as its new domain name. Mudiad Meithrin is the first early years education and childcare provider in Wales to switch its domain name to .cymru.

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Mudiad Meithrin Chief Executive said: "By switching our domain name to .cymru, the Mudiad has realized one of the targets that are outlined in Dewiniaith (point 3.9) – a document outlining the Mudiad's vision for the next 10 years."

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D866.

● **£2,000:** 996597.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500 was not won this week.**

● **£10:**116594; 187586; 162296; 219201; 237421; 341582; 301580; 647598; 744125; 952352; 585487; 747902; 481286; 285556; 990794; 785605; 804256; 169091; 299083; 858123.

● **£5:** 313315, 293009; 486666; 293304; 780076; 778483; 752509; 977378; 761530; 627965; 402443; 221558; 943539; 222407; 840699; 316758; 406336; 505798; 446214; 233166; 536737; 850200; 825591; 942362; 212630; 478207; 112968; 939212; 817543; 632812; 643171; 766073; 646064; 379064; 286478; 394598; 518645; 656589; 216510; 365498; 487789; 461263; 788137; 707324; 876238; 311281; 627588; 838636; 996093; 549429; 359202; 384148; 178604; 650000; 635318; 719556; 896015; 474999; 906; 1587.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Local Lions hand £500 cheque to the Vale Foodbank

Mike Grove (Foodbank treasurer), Susan Lloyd Selby (Foodbank), John Wordley (Lions president) and Ceri Caterina Davies (Foodbank).

AS the Vale Foodbank passes the milestone of providing free emergency food parcels to almost 10,000 local people in crisis, it was visited by John Wordley, president of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, who presented the charity with a cheque for £500.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the foodbank, Susan Lloyd Selby said: "The Lions is a wonderful organisation, consisting of volunteers who raise money and do whatever they can to help their local community.

"Here in the Vale, they support a huge number of local causes, including diabetic screening, the Big Wrap and the British Legion.

"As the number of people seeking help from the foodbank continues to rise, we are incredibly grateful to the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions for their support."

Speaking on behalf of the Lions, John Wordley praised the Foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved.

He said: "The Lions support humanitarian causes across the world, from our Sight First programme which is aiming to prevent and cure blindness in the Third World, to supporting young people from the Vale to work with disadvantaged children in Venezuela and India, but we also recognise and respond to needs on our doorstep.

"We are delighted to be able to support the Vale Foodbank and hope this donation will enable them to continue to ensure no-one need go hungry in the Vale."

For more information about the work of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions: Telephone 0845 833 6763; e-mail: secretary@lmandclions.org.uk; visit www.lmandclions.org.uk; Facebook: www.facebook.com/lmandclions; Twitter:@lmandclions.

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NOT A WELLY IN SIGHT AS GARDENERS CELEBRATE!

BARRY garden owners attended a Mayor's Fairtrade coffee morning last week – to celebrate the hard work they do each year to open their gardens for the National Gardens Scheme.

Leaving their wellies at home, Dave Bryant, (on left in picture) and Debbie Palmer, (right) enjoyed a rest from gardening with the Mayor of Barry Council, Coun Jeff Evans.

They are looking forward to opening their gardens on July 19, which promises a great day out for garden lovers!

The Glamorgan branch of the National Gardens Scheme raised over £35,000 last year, giving about £32,000 to the NGS, which supports charities such as Macmillan Nursing and Marie Curie, and £3,500 to local charities.

Theatres probe at UHW

THE Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is investigating the ventilation system in surgical theatres at University Hospital of Wales after 11 operations were cancelled.

"During routine preparations, staff noticed a small number of black specks in the theatre area. As a precaution, surgery was suspended in that theatre and a full investigation launched, a spokeswoman said this week.

"Four other theatres have also been affected, leading to some operations having to be rescheduled. Patients affected by the issue have been informed."

The health board stated that there was no evidence of any risk to patients and that surgery was continuing in other theatres not affected.

"We hope to have it resolved shortly and will ensure that all those affected are seen as soon as possible."

Breastfriends support group

BARRY Breastfriends (part of Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group) will meet on Friday, February 20, at 2pm in the Masonic Hall on Broad Street.

Sue Youngman will give an illustrated talk about her charity work with 'Barbra' and her trek to Cuba in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

For more details about the group, phone Pam on 07919 035658.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00068/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of double garage
Location:/Lleoliad:	8, Cardiff Road, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00118/ADV
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of 1 No. 'halo' illuminated fascia sign and 1 No. externally illuminated projecting sign
Location:/Lleoliad:	5D, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2014/01171/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Renovation/replacement of windows in grade II listed building
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Old Vicarage, Wick Road, St. Brides Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00067/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Install a retractable awning in rear yard
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Market Place Restaurant, 66, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II*
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00124/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	The addition of a conservatory to the rear of the property enclosed in the courtyard. The replacement of the garage doors with glazed units construct an opening between the oak room and the vestibule
Location:/Lleoliad:	Llansannor Court, Llansannor,
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade I

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00026/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of a 2.2MW solar farm and associated infrastructure
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land at Court Farm, Treoes
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00075/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Redevelopment of the site for 47 dwellings, car parking and any associated works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00026/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of a 2.2MW solar farm and associated infrastructure
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land at Court Farm, Treoes

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 February, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Niamh wins battle for vital operation

Celebrating the good news – dad Chris, Alun Cairns MP, Niamh Hurn, mum Michelle and sister Jazmin.

by GEM REPORTER

A nine-year-old Barry primary school pupil has won her battle to undergo a £30,000 operation to help her walk.

Niamh Hurn was in a race against time because the medical advice was that the procedure – selective dorsal rhizotomy – needed to be done before she was 10 years old.

The GEM featured Niamh's plight four years ago. Her spinal condition has meant that her movement has had to be assisted and supervised.

But that is about to change, and mum Michelle and dad Chris are thrilled.

Michelle said: "Niamh and the family are really excited. The operation will mean she will be much more independent and able to grow into a young lady.

"We will be talking to Bristol Children's Hospital on Wednesday or Thursday to get a final date.

"When she goes in, it will be for two to three weeks. Fortunately, both of our employers are accommodating.

"We want to thank Alun (the local MP) and his team – without them we couldn't have achieved this."

Niamh will be one of the first children in Wales to undergo the surgery, which is being funded by NHS Wales.

Mr Cairns had previously backed the Hurn family campaign, which aimed to get enough in donations to fund the operation privately – over £16,000 has been raised.

Mr Cairns also contacted the local health board to raise the issue over the need for Niamh to receive the operation before her 10th birthday in December 2015.

Mr Cairns said: "I am absolutely thrilled at the news that Niamh will get the much-needed operation in the spring. We have been working hard for several months to get the operation approved on the NHS.

"The Hurn family are a credit to the community – they have done an incredible amount of fundraising, and to see how happy the family were upon receiving the news is already a highlight of my year."

St Donat's man wins the Vale of Glamorgan Hedging match

THE Vale of Glamorgan Hedging match took place on Sunday, by permission of Tony Evans, Marcross Farm, and main sponsor for the day, Jonathan Edwards of Ty Newydd Farm, Sigginston.

The overall winner was Lloyd Thomas of Splott Farm, St Donat's; runner-up was Michael Thomas of Sutton Newydd, Llandow; and third place went to Martyn Webb of Penbwch Uchaf Farm, Pontypridd.

RIGHT: judge Adam Llewellyn presents the shield to Lloyd Thomas.

The Chinese 'Year of the Sheep' heralds good fortune for Ewenice and EweMove..!

CELEBRATING the upcoming Chinese New Year, the rapidly growing sales and letting agent, EweMove, is set for more good fortune in 2015.

February 19 is the start of the Year of the Sheep and significantly for EweMove, it's the year of the female, green sheep that people across the world will be celebrating!

EweMove's logo and company mascot is a friendly female green sheep called Ewenice, and all of their marketing has a strong sheep theme.

The Year of the Sheep is a great coincidence and spells good fortune for this unique estate agency.

EweMove directors Karen and Richard comments: "We were thrilled when we found out that 2015 was the Year of the Sheep, having had an amazing 2014, we are set up for even more in 2015."

ADVERTISEMENT

ABOVE: Ewenice, EweMove's green sheep, is expecting a busy 2015.

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You too could become a 'Dementia Friend'!

DURING the first two weeks of February, I ran 'Dementia Friends' sessions for the 1st Llantwit Major Cubs and Scouts and made 22 Dementia Friends.

A Dementia Friend is someone who has attended a one-hour information session and has committed to an action that will make the lives of people living with dementia a little better.

Every action counts – spreading the word about dementia, spending time with a friend or family member who has dementia, recommending becoming a Dementia Friend to others.

Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society-led initiative, funded by the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office.

It aims to increase dementia awareness and change the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about dementia and is part of the Prime Minister's 'Challenge on Dementia'. The target for the initiative is to make one million Dementia Friends across the UK. Currently, there are almost 900,000 Dementia Friends.

I became a Dementia Champion in May 2014 – that means a volunteer who has undertaken additional Dementia Friends information briefings to be able to deliver the relevant sessions.

Since May last year, I have delivered 16 sessions and made 236 Dementia Friends. Throughout March and April this year I have more sessions planned and, hopefully, many more Dementia Friends to make.

To find out more about the Dementia Friends initiative, go to dementiafriends.org.uk/ and consider becoming a Dementia Friend or Dementia Champion.

By Carolyn Veal-Shaw – Dementia Champion, Cardiff and the Vale.

Pictured promoting the new Marie Curie Carers' Café are helper service volunteers Lind Stephens and Elaine Philips, carer Margaret Pearce, and patient volunteer Chris Pearce.

Marie Curie opens a new Carers' Cafe

THE Marie Curie hospice in Penarth is set to host a new Carers' Café – for people caring for someone with a terminal illness.

It will provide the opportunity for carers to meet in an informal setting and chat over a cake and a cuppa and the first session will be held on Tuesday, March 3 between 2pm and 4pm, with subsequent sessions held on the first and last Tuesdays of every month.

The café will be led by hospice staff, and will also be supported by a community nurse and a social worker.

The initiative is part of the charity's successful Caring for Carers project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Susan Court, who manages the three-year project, said: "We decided to introduce this new session after identifying a lack of social groups for carers in and around Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. If you have an hour or two to spare, why not drop in? It's free to attend and you don't need to book in advance.

"For Carers' Café we want to create somewhere people can meet others and share their experience, find helpful information, or just have some time to themselves."

For more information about the Carers' Café, please contact Sarah Johnson on 02920 426023 or email sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk.

Further details about the support Marie Curie offers for carers can be found at www.mariecurie.org.uk/caringforcarers.

Who wants to build what, and where, in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Mr P Hicks – **Plot 5, Craig yr Eos Avenue, Ogmore by Sea** – Proposed construction of detached residential dwelling.

Mrs Justine Harlow – **18 Vennwood Close, Wenvoe** – Single storey extension to rear and minor alterations.

Mr Maurice Thompson – **110 High Street, Barry** – Change of use first and second floor to A2.

Mr Martin Brewer – **Old Lime Works, St Athan Road, Aberthaw** – Proposed steel framed storage barn to store plant and feed.

Dr PE Jones – **Greenway Farm, Bonvilston** – Change of use of land to residential curtilage of Greenway Farm and conversion of barn and alterations to form 'granny annexe'.

Mr Robin Burge – **43 Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys** – Single storey side extension.

Miss C Jones – **Land at Twchwyn Garth, Llangan** – Amendment to Consent 2010/01073/FUL – change of location of arena in connection with stables at Twchwyn Garth, Llangan.

Mr Roy Mohamed – **St Markella, Station Road West, Wenvoe** – Retention of boundary fence.

Sunrise Renewables (Barry) Ltd – **David Davies Road, Woodham Road, Barry** – Outline application for a wood-fired renewable energy plant.

Mr and Mrs Phil Dutfield – **57 Brockhill Way, Penarth** – Existing rear conservatory to be replaced with a single storey extension; new garage door and roof over to side with glazed canopy to rear.

Mrs Dolan – **Llantrithyd House, Llantrithyd Road, Llantrithyd** – Erection of a timber conservatory.

WS Jones and Son – **Tyn Y Coed Farm, Bonvilston** – Erection of an agricultural building.

PREZZO plc – **PREZZO, 16 Windsor Road, Penarth** – New projecting and fascia signs.

Cadoxton Community Primary School – **Cadoxton Community Primary School, Victoria Park, Cadoxton, Barry** – To extend existing annexe building to Cadoxton Community Primary School.

Dr Graham Givens – **Kenswood, Kingswood Close, Ewenny** – Erection of extensions, dormer, porch and detached garage.

Dr Nicola Hall – **Pentre Parc Farm, Llysworney, Cowbridge** – Extension to existing bungalow.

Mr Brandon Walters – **Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, Cowbridge** – The construction of a single extension to the existing art block, a single storey extension to the existing dining hall/kitchen and a proposed new two-storey reception building within the grounds of Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Mrs Heather Brock – **Church House, Fort Road, Lavernock** – Proposed part single storey and part two storey extension/s to the existing dwelling to include: provision of new detached garage, internal reconfiguration/enabling works to existing dwelling and minor external works.

Persimmon Homes East Wales – **Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry** – Redevelopment of the site for 47 dwellings, car parking and any associated works.

Mr James Law – **St Nicholas House, St Nicholas** – Conversion of St Nicholas House and garage block into two semi-detached dwellings.

Mrs Cheryl Edwards – **Rosemount, Peterston Super Ely** – Demolition of existing mono pitch rear single storey extension and replacement with a larger single storey extension with a combination of mono pitch and flat roof.

Mr Mark Hewitson – **7 Port Road East, Barry** – Two storey side extension.

Vale of Glamorgan Council, Architects section – **20 Crawshay Court, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – New conservatory for storage of access equipment and up accessibility upgrades of external access to building.

Mrs Norma Barber – **The Briars, Parc Newydd, Treoes** – Ground and first floor extension.

Mr Peter Kirkup – **Lower Lodge, Ewenny** – Double garage and store.

Mrs Jeanette Stroud – **1 Coed Mawr, Barry** – Rear extension to provide ground floor disabled bathroom and day lounge.

Mr BT Jones – **9 Park Road, Penarth** – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling; existing lean-to to be demolished.

Mr C Owens – **15 Cae Gwyn, Penarth** – Conversion of garage to habitable living space.

Mr Toby Sullivan – **103 Murlande Way, Rhoose** – Raise levels at perimeter of rear boundary in line with existing ground level and construction of boundary wall and new fence.

Mrs Paula Mason – **The Rectory, 8 Ger y Llan, St Nicholas** – Single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Collard – **2 Priory Gardens, Churchfields, Barry** – Proposed single storey extension to rear to form sun room.

Dr David Gareth Price – **14 Clevedon Avenue, Sully** – Alterations and extension to existing detached dwelling plus associated works.

Ms Keeva Caoimhe – **13 Leoline Close, Cowbridge** – Retrospective permission for a single storey timber shed erected in rear of garden Nov/Dec 2014. For use ancillary to use of the domestic dwelling house.

Mr Terry Kidd – **2 Robin Hill, Dinas Powys** – Retrospective application for replacement of existing flat roof to garage and entrance lobby with new pitched roof. Roof materials to match those of the existing, with ridge and eave heights to be no higher.

Mr Craig Macdonald – **Ash Cottage, Ystradowen** – Change of use of existing building and store to provide residential accommodation.

Mr Raymond Bolter – **27 Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Construction of rear extension consisting of kitchen area, dining area and cloakroom.

Mr Guy Leach – **The Old Post Office, 61-63 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Removal of conditions 16, 17 and 18 of planning permission 2012/00455/FUL.

Mr Roy Burston – **Conifers, Old Rectory Drive, St Nicholas** – T1 – Remove betula pendula; T3 – reduce Lime by 2.5m; T4 – fell pinus nigra.

Subway Penarth Ltd – **5D Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Installation of one 'halo' illuminated fascia sign and one externally illuminated projecting sign.

Master Aneurin Skone – **105 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Creation of a gateway and off-road parking space for a disabled person.

Mr Mark Boland – **28A The Yard, Station Road, Penarth** – Lawful use of workshop as B2 use.

Mr Michael Eddershaw – **Llansannor Court, Llansannor** – The addition of a conservatory to the rear of the property enclosed in the courtyard. The replacement of the garage doors with glazed units, construct an opening between the oak room and the vestibule.

STUDENTS CATER FOR ROTARIAN GUESTS IN STYLE

President-elect Paul Halstead, with the Vale Mayor and Mayoress and catering students at Cardiff and Vale College.

BARRY Rotarians and guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale, Howard Hamilton and Margaret Hamilton, enjoyed a meal prepared and served by catering students of Cardiff and Vale College in the Glamorgan Suite of the Colcot Road Campus last week.

President-elect Paul Halstead congratulated the students and paid tribute to the Vale and Barry Town councils for their continued support for the Rotary Club's annual Fireworks Fiesta held on November 5.

The club continues to make monthly donations to the local foodbank; plans are well in hand to celebrate St David's Day with an early breakfast on Friday, February 27 at St Andrew's Golf Club, and underprivileged children will be taken to Brean Sands in June, as part of Rotary' Nation Kids Out programme.

None of these events would be possible without the continued support of public, for which the Rotary Club of Barry is very grateful.

JILL OSBORNE

WHAT'S ON - In brief

Family fun in Llantwit

A FAMILY fun and craft fair is taking place at Llantwit Major Rugby Club on Saturday, February 21 from 12 noon to 4pm.

Jam, pickles, chutneys from a 'Bit of a Pickle', and children's activities including face painting, ceramics and crafts.

Charity stalls for Welsh Horse and Pony Group and for Animal Welfare.

First Responders 'Irish Night'

LLANTWIT Major First Responder coordinators Liz and Byron Evans are running an 'Irish Night' charity evening for Welsh Hearts/Calonnau Cymru at the Duke of Wellington public house in Cowbridge on Friday, March 13 at 7.30pm.

The band Henry Marten's Ghost Band will be playing. Tickets for the event are £10 per person.

This is the night before the Wales v Ireland match! If you require tickets contact Liz on lizabeth13@hotmail.co.uk.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Planning procedure in Wales is 'undemocratic and not fit for purpose'

IN their local election manifesto, prospective Labour councillors pledged that the Draft Local Development Plan prepared by the Conservatives would be re-visited.

A new consultation would reflect the needs and desires of people living in the Vale.

This pledge has been dishonoured. As at February 2015, no LDP is in place. Several landowners and large housing developers armed with professional advisers have exploited the situation by submitting planning applications for new estates throughout the rural Vale.

Many have been approved by the Vale Council despite vigorous objections from affected communities.

In theory, the planning proposal process is open handed with all parties involved having the opportunity to present their plans, opinions and objections. The planning officer then prepares a report with a recommendation to the council planning committee, who have the statutory power to make the decision of approval or rejection.

The proposer has the right of appeal against a rejection to the Welsh Government on any grounds, whereas objectors can appeal only if a procedural mistake has been made.

The reality is somewhat different. The proposer is often a UK housing developer with vast financial resources.

Their position is made more favourable by them offering financial payments to the council to fund projects which may or may not be connected with the planning proposal.

These payments are euphemistically referred to as "Section 106 Agreements".

The position of the objectors is very different. The financial costs of employing professional consultants are borne by, in most cases, community councils with limited funds or private individuals.

Their costs cannot be recovered, unlike the developers who hope to make a substantial profit on the sale of the housing development.

There is also an option to submit a call-in request to Welsh Government. This must be done before the council issues its decision notice. Recent rural Vale call-in requests were rejected.

There could be a Judicial Review. Costly – and even if successful the developer usually submits a revised application to restart the process. A topical example is Darren Farm, renamed in the new application "North West Cowbridge."

A complaint could be made to the council with a request for the decision process to be examined. They were judge and jury on the original decision. How can that same council be expected to act as appeal tribunal in a fair and reasonable manner?

A complaint could be made to the Public Service Ombudsman, who refuses to intervene until the council has reviewed the matter.

The existing planning procedure in Wales is not fit for purpose. It clearly favours the large housing developers whose influence over the process is unlimited.

The system is undemocratic and in urgent need of change.

Paul H Simpson,
Colwinston.

Enforce proper routes for HGV vehicles

MY sincere sympathies go out to the families of those individuals who were tragically killed in Bath recently after a heavy goods vehicle ploughed into them.

Apparently, local residents had raised concerns for some time about the safety of such vehicles travelling through the busy and highly populated residential area.

Perhaps this tragedy will act as an impetus for the Vale Council to take action before a similar tragedy strikes in Barry as a result of the construction traffic connected with the Waterfront development.

Since the start of construction work at the Waterfront, I have noticed a significant amount of construction-related heavy goods vehicles travelling down Jenner Road, Pontypridd Road and Park Crescent.

I understand that other local residents have noticed this too and raised concerns. This busy area, used by hundreds of pedestrians each day, predominantly parents and children attending Romilly School, is clearly not an appropriate route for construction traffic.

My understanding is that the Vale Council planning department pre-empted these traffic issues by setting out a route that construction traffic is obliged to use as a condition of the planning consent granted to the developers.

The approved route is via the Barry Docks Link Road and Cardiff Road (past the Dow Corning factory). The drivers of many of the heavy goods vehicles either are not aware of this condition or are choosing to ignore it.

While such a planning condition is hard to enforce per se, the council can quite easily implement restrictions on heavy goods vehicles travelling through residential areas with an exception provided for vehicles which need to access those areas to make deliveries etc.

A failure to adhere to such restrictions is a traffic offence, enforceable by the police. Park Crescent would be an obvious choice but the council should also think about a wider restriction in order to avoid the residential areas of our town becoming a rat run for heavy goods vehicles.

I am sure that most local residents, like myself, are in favour of the Waterfront development and delighted to see that work is finally in full flow. However, public safety must be paramount. My understanding is that the Waterfront development is due to run for 10 years. Construction traffic will only increase as time goes on, and the council needs to act now to deal with the issue before tragedy strikes closer to home.

(Name and address supplied.)

• The GEM has informed the Vale Council of the issues raised in the letter and will publish a full response from the council next week.

Hospital wait for a consultant

I WAS taken into the Princess of Wales Hospital on Monday, February 10, arriving at 6pm, with a suspected heart attack.

The ambulance arrived at the surgery within 15 minutes which was an excellent response time.

I had blood and other tests within one hour, waited two hours for results, was told that I had to have a further blood test after another six hours, and that I had to stay overnight. The results of these came through at 4am.

There were no available beds, so I had to sit in the waiting room for a total of fourteen and a half hours, which was until 8.30am on Tuesday morning to see the consultant.

The reason for this wait was that there are only junior doctors during the night and they are not capable of making decisions.

I think that this is disgusting, it is quite obvious to me that this Assembly Government keeps changing the Health Minister, but is incapable of sorting our health service .

Roy Jones, Cowbridge.

ANSWER IS TO LEARN WELSH!

THE anonymous person who has created a furore about Cowbridge being an "oasis of Englishness" etc is surely being racist?

Also if someone wants to remain anonymous, does this not indicate that he/she is cowardly or lacks conviction?

And why live in a country whose language you hate? I have learnt Welsh and love to speak it.

Maybe Peter Reed from Barry (February 5) would like to do so? It would give him something to do, instead of moaning about everything Welsh!

Diolch yn fawr,

Ann Fisher, Miskin.

Greens surge towards a fairer society

GEM readers may be aware that, over the past six months or so, membership of the Green Party in England and Wales has more than doubled, with new members continuing to join daily.

There are now over 1,500 members in Wales. Within the Vale, membership has mirrored this increase, the number of members having risen from 25 to 50 since November.

For many new members this may be the first time they have joined a political party.

They, and any other people interested in learning more of the Green Party and its policies, are invited to an evening meeting on Wednesday, February 25 at 7.45pm, at the Bonvilston Reading Room, Bonvilston.

As the Green Party candidate in the Vale, I will be happy to answer questions and to discuss policies, as well as meeting members and supporters who would be willing to help during the election campaign e.g. to distribute leaflets and attend hustings.

The 'Green surge' in membership would suggest that an increasing number of people are deeply unhappy at the policies and performances of the main political parties, and are attracted by the Green Party's message of the need for major change towards a fairer society.

Alan Armstrong.
Penarth

Work at Dyfan open space

A resident who lives near Dyfan open space, Barry, which is to become a lagoon, as part of a flood prevention scheme, says she was concerned to hear that the Vale Council planned to recut undergrowth in the area.

Tracey Abery explained: "We got a letter through on Friday to say recutting of undergrowth would start on Monday, February 23. I think it could be a waste of money. They cut the area last year. What are they going to cut? Hedges? Trees? They are going to dig the field out anyway. Added to that, the nesting season is almost upon us."

Phil Beaman of the Vale Council, said: "The work being undertaken at Dyfan Road simply involves cutting back any previously cleared areas that have regrown. This cutting back is being undertaken before the start of the nesting season so that it can go ahead without any disruption to nesting birds."

£30,000 facelift

ELEVEN shops and businesses along Nolton Street, Bridgend are getting a fresh lick of paint to complement recent improvements to pavements and highways in Bridgend.

Contractors appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council will begin work in the next fortnight.

It is hoped that the £30,000 refurbishments, which are being paid for from the council's special regeneration fund, will encourage more people to come and shop in the town centre.

CHORAL SOCIETY

BARRY Choral Society will be joining Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Male Voice Choir to present a concert organised by Barry Town Council on February 27, at St Mary's Church, Holton Road at 7pm.

They invite the public, each Wednesday at Crossway Methodist Church between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. For more information, contact Sheila on 01446 748724, or Helen on 02920 531359.

MP and skipper check out GEM!

VALE MP Alun Cairns met Wales captain Sam Warburton on the Friday before the squad left for Scotland – Sam was catching up on The GEM match report from the England game!

Staff celebrate as they raise more than £4,000 for Ty Hafan charity

Gareth Howells (left), general manager at Wessex Garages, and Matt Jones, digital sales executive at the dealership, celebrate raising money for Tŷ Hafan during 2013 and 2014.

STAFF at an award-winning car dealership in Cardiff are celebrating this month, after raising £4,052.20 for their Charity of the Year.

The funds were raised for Tŷ Hafan by staff and customers at Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road throughout 2013 and 2014.

Gareth Howells, General Manager at Wessex Garages, explained: "Throughout the past two years we organised and took part in various activities to raise money for Tŷ Hafan.

"Our most popular event in 2014 was our fundraising evening with the Cardiff Blues in December, during which £1,017.93 was raised. Our digital sales executive, Matt Jones, did an eight-hour static cycle challenge in June and raised £204 for the organisation. Matt was proactive with fundraising ideas and helped to organise the events so a thank you needs to go to him.

"We would also like to thank our staff and customers for supporting the events and helping us raise a fantastic amount of money for Tŷ Hafan during the past two years. We have ended our support for the charity on a high. We are currently in the process of choosing another local charity to support in 2015."

Tŷ Hafan offers comfort, care and support for life-limited children and young people in Wales. It is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the whole family free of charge.

It was established in 1999 and has helped more than 600 families who live with the reality that their children with life-limiting conditions may not reach the age of 18.

Eleanor Ryan, business and community fundraiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "Wessex organised some fantastic fundraisers throughout the two years and also supplied us with four-wheeled support for some of our own events.

"We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the staff and customers that made this donation possible. The final figure of £4,052.20 is amazing and will really help local families.

"We take support right into the family home and are there to help families through every step of their unimaginable journey. For Tŷ Hafan to offer this unique service to families in Wales, we have to raise more than £3.7 million every year."

Wessex Garages is a privately-owned company that has outlets in Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester and Newport. It specialises in new and used car sales across South Wales and the South West.

For more information, please call Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road on 02921 677 650, visit www.wessexgarages.com , follow the company on Twitter at www.twitter.com/wessexgarages or log on to www.facebook.com/wessexgarages.

From one student council to another!

The student council has been kept busy!

THIS week, the year-7 student council at Llantwit Major Comprehensive went to 5 primary schools to speak to the year-6 student council.

We visited Wick, Rhws, St Illtyd, Llanilltud Fawr and St Athan. We talked about transition and areas in which we can improve it. We also planned a year 6 and 7 transition disco and we asked for their opinions.

I enjoyed speaking to the different schools and I thought it was good fun.

by Bethan Roberts (year-7)

WORKSHOPS WILL FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Vale's 'Rights Ambassadors'.

MEMBERS of the Vale Youth Service's Rights Ambassadors project are planning workshops to enhance young people and adults' knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

"Over the course of the last three months, young people have completed a level two Agored Cymru unit about the UNCRC, so that they are fully equipped with the knowledge they need to develop workshops," a spokesperson said.

Can you ease Jess's fears?

JESS, a three-year-old Alaskan Malamute, is bright and active, but has been under-socialised in her early years, leaving her worried with other dogs.

Once she has made a friend, she plays very nicely, so we hope to find the right dog for her to live with.

She's lively, playful and loves her toys. It is essential that we find Jess an owner who is experienced in training dogs, and who can give her the exercise she needs to keep her happy and healthy.

She can live with children over 14 years of age, and with a patient owner in the right home, she will make a loving companion.

If you can offer Jess, or any of our dogs a home, call 01656 725219, or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend; we are open from12-4pm every day, except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN
(*Supporter Relations Officer Dogs Trust Bridgend*)

Headteacher has VIP date at Number 10

BARRY headteacher, Clare Lewis, recently attended a reception for teachers hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

Miss Lewis, from All Saints Primary School, was nominated to attend the reception by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

He said: "I was delighted to have had the opportunity to nominate and join Clare at the reception in honour of teachers doing excellent work around the country.

"I have visited All Saints Primary many times now, and have always been impressed with how the school operates."

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "With such dedicated and inspiring teachers in our schools I know we can ensure our children get the best chance to succeed.

"It was an honour to celebrate their commitment at this reception."

CLARE LEWIS.

GEM SPORTS EXTRA

Margaret Thomas and Sian Lovell, with Helen.

Skip Helen drives in at Cottrell

Helen with Sara Alexander, Mary Watkins and Maureen Bowen.

ON a cold frosty morning the new ladies' captain of Cottrell Park, Helen Poole, did an incredibly long straight drive, watched by many of the ladies.

The prize for the flag nearest where the ball had landed was won by Madeleine John. Then 30 ladies played a nine hole competition with the best two out of three scores to count - this was won by Toots Plant, Sian Lovell and Margaret Thomas with 36 points, with Mary Watkins, Sara Alexander and Maureen Bowen second with 32 points.

More ladies then joined for an excellent lunch where Helen welcomed every one, and she presented prizes to the ladies who won the competition. She is looking forward to her year in office.

She then presented Janet Cosby, past ladies' captain, with a gift from all the ladies. The new diary with all the events for the coming year was distributed and it is hoped it will be a good year weather-wise.

CB

Madeleine Johns.

ABOVE: Gareth Long with match ball sponsor Rebecca Skinner of RS Podiatry.

Saints demolish Builders

BARRY SAINTS progressed to the next round of the Cup with a 5-1 victory over a good John Davey Builders side on a very tricky pitch.

Saints took the lead through Darren Townsend and had Gareth Hegarty to thank in goal allowing them to go into halftime 1-0 up.

Saints added another goal through Townsend, after a great cushioned header by Nathan Williams set him up, but the Builders grabbed a goal after a short goal kick was pounced upon.

Saints then made a few changes which worked in their favour and Michael Evans came on and turned provider for Nathan Williams after a perfect through ball over the defence left Williams to smash the ball home.

Williams then put Townsend through one on one for the Saints talisman to unselfishly lay the ball off for Evans to tap in to the empty net.

Ashley Ashill finished the scoring, converting a one on one through the keeper's legs.

Special thanks to Rebecca Skinner of RS Podiatry for sponsoring the match ball.

GL

RHOOSE ROVERS GO DIRECT!

SINCE the successes of last season, Rhoose Rovers FC look like they are on the up.

They have moved up to a higher division, after completing the double of Division Two champions 2013-14 and Dockers Cup winners 2014.

The increase in standard has no doubt been a challenge for the Rovers, alongside a large absentee list in the opening few months of the season. However, with improvements on both the injury and absentee list, it looks like the Rovers are challenging at the right end of the table and will be hoping to recapture the form that saw them complete the double last season.

Signings were made in January but the most crucial signing was the securing of major sponsor Go Direct.

The company, started by Craig Trickett, offers high level tuition for anyone looking to obtain their driving licence. The company has grown so much in a short space of time, spreading across Cardiff and the Vale and can only continue to grow in the future.

Go Direct School of Motoring has been one of the main catalysts behind the Rovers' success this season and hopefully for many seasons to come.

The club would also like to say massive thanks to John Black (match ball), K.R. Building Services and the Cambrian (formerly known as the Flying Club) for their continued support over the last few years - the club wouldn't function without you all.

This Saturday sees the Rovers push towards a second visit to Jenner Park as they face Cadoxton Athletic in the Divisional Cup at 2pm at Ceri Road, and they have an outside chance of challenging for promotion if injuries are kept to a minimum.

If there are any potential sponsors/players that are interested in helping the development of the club, please get in contact with one of our current players/coaches. New sponsors can help by sponsoring a match ball or by sponsoring training/match kit.

AB

Local building society come to the rescue of club hit by thieves

Members of Maesteg Park FC with Ruth Davies, Principality Building Society's Maesteg branch manager.

THE Principality Building Society came to the rescue of Maesteg Park Football Club after hearing that thieves stole a full set of new football shirts and water bottles.

The society, which has a branch in Maesteg, stepped in to help the team and provided them with new kit.

Andrew Jones, first team manager, said: "We are so grateful to the Principality for helping us replace the kit. When our kit got stolen we weren't sure what to do as it would have taken a while for us to get the money to buy a new one.

"But straightaway we had a call from Principality saying they would replace them and they also stated that the new kit should have the original sponsors, Garn Stores, emblazoned on the front, which is a fantastic gesture. We are so thankful to them for their support."

Ruth Davies, Principality Building Society's Maesteg branch manager, said: "We were delighted to be able to help Maesteg Park FC in their hour of need, as the team is an important part of the community not only for the players but for the people around the town."

Mynydd Cynffig Primary's win in schools netball tournament

MYNYDD CYNFFIG Junior School's netball team triumphed at the Bridgend county borough primary school championships, held recently in the Ogmore Valley Life Centre.

Organised in partnership by BCBC's active young people's department and Welsh Netball, the one-day tournament saw a total of 28 matches played by boys and girls from schools across the county borough.

The winners were closely followed by Plasnewydd Primary who took second place, and West Park Primary, who came third.

Among the spectators was Wales and Celtic Dragons star Kelly Morgan, who posed for photographs and signed autographs for the young players.

Kelly, from Maesteg, said: "It was wonderful to see the youngsters playing in the tournament. There was a great atmosphere and so much talent – definitely some future stars! It was also great to see boys competing.

"I think netball offers the ideal opportunity for both sexes to play and we'll hopefully see lots more taking part. Well done to all the schools involved."

Both Mynydd Cynffig and Plasnewydd will now progress through to the Glamorgan Valleys final, in April at the University of South Wales. They will battle with the top two teams from Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff for the opportunity to reach the Welsh finals at Sophia Gardens in May.

Mynydd Cynffig take the Bridgend title and go on to the Glamorgan Valleys final.

Send your news and reports to: *gemeditorial @tindlenews .co.uk*

PORTHCAWL JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Youth side through to Welsh Bowl semi-finals!

PORTHCAWL Youth moved on to the semi-finals of the Welsh Bowl Competition after a bruising game at Graig Parc against Penygraig, winning 5-3.

The home team started off well and immediately put pressure on the Porthcawl defence. Egged on by a large partisan crowd, Penygraig kept the ball tight but Porthcawl managed to absorb the pressure, knocking back the home ball carriers with some big hits.

However, as the game progressed the away team began to use their pace and were unlucky on several occasions not to cross the try line.

The game soon turned into a stale mate only to be broken with a penalty kick to Penygraig.

The second half was pretty much a carbon copy of the first with both sides committing themselves manfully in an effort to gain control of the game.

As legs began to get tired on the heavy pitch, gaps in the defensive lines began to appear. Porthcawl's Ollie Banner took advantage of this and a scything break from the outside half saw him cut through a gap to link with centre Jacob Thomas who scored an unconverted try wide out.

This was the only score of the half with Porthcawl running out as deserved winners.

It was also pleasing that the referee took time after the game to compliment the young Seaweeds upon their attitude, stating that it was, in his opinion, their discipline that won them the game.

CHRIS WINTLE

UNDER-12s

Porthcawl 20, Cowbridge 5 - try scorers Ollie 2, Aaron and Rohan.

UNDER-10s

Porthcawl 50, Maesteg Celtic 20 - try scorers Luke Roberts (4), Josh Woodbridge (2), Stefan Yardley (2), Jack Olding, Rhys.

UNDER-8s

PORTHCAWL 5 MAESTEG CELTIC 11

PORTHCAWL 13 LLANHARAN 11

We were again slow at getting our game going in the first game against Maesteg.

We stood off Maesteg's strong runners and time and time again they were breaching our defence, allowing them to score at will. Our low tag count from whole team sums up our defence at the moment

One player who didn't take a backward step and stood out in defence was Ben, who previously stood static or drifted backwards, but not today and for the second week running was fearless, showing great line speed and closing the gaps and holding the line all day.

Well done Ben for winning top tagger with 11 tags, with special mention in defence going to Dewi (15), Rose (11), Piers (10) and Oscar (9). Other players playing without fear were Lewis and Brody who picked up the making a difference and individual effort awards respectively.

With Lewis scoring four tries and Brody with three they put in a strong all round performance running great attacking lines, who were followed closely by Rose who again dominated the defensive line and ran some excellent lines but was unlucky not to get on the scoreboard.

Against Llanharan both teams played a different style of rugby looking to exploit the space and pass the ball along the line before the tag, which for me was shown in try of the day.

It started with Ben, who stepped off his left foot and then his right moving the defence from left to right before drawing in the defence and passing to Theo, who looked up and with only two players to beat passed to Dewi into space who had a free run into the corner.

Other players putting in a shift in this game were Piers and Oscar, both scoring two tries apiece, with Piers throwing himself into a great try-saving tackle.

This week we are home again to Pencoed and then a weekend off.

Try scorers: Lewis (4), Ryan, Brody (3), Piers (2), Oscar (2), Dewi (6).

ROB HOOPER

UNDER-7S

Porthcawl 18, Maesteg Celtic 6; Porthcawl 18, Cwmavon 8.

Player awards went to James Owen (man of the match), Sam Davies and Adam Kelly (achievement awards).

GERAINT EVANS

GOOD WEEK FOR CHESS TEAMS

ON Monday, the Barry Chess Club had two matches.

The Camelots took on local rivals Penarth Pirates, with the Quarks entertaining St Johns' College Leptons.

Both matches ended with 4-1 victories for Barry, and of the 10 boards in action we only lost one game so it was a good night all round.

The pick of the games featured Pagona Mavroyenneas. Over the past two weeks her father Nick has obtained good results and this time it was daughter Pagona's turn.

In the opening she won a pawn but, being a generous player she soon found herself a piece down. However there were a number of players milling around who were willing her to find a winning move.

She had an opportunity but failed to spot it, however her opponent also failed to spot it. The second time she found the move to record her first ever win in the league - well done Pagona.

Later in the week, the Bosons traveled to Cardiff to take on league leaders the Cardiff Castles.

In a reversal of fortune the Bosons earned a 3.5-1.5 win; this moves the Bosons up to fourth.

More importantly the Camelots have gained ground on the Castles and move up to second, only 1.5 points behind. Also of note here a new but experienced player to Barry, Matthew Davies, played his first games for us in both the Bosons and Camelots matches recording a win in both.

The fourth round of the Club Championships also took place this week.

It was a good night to be playing black on the top boards and the championship is surely now a three-way fight between Ashley Davis, Craig Woolcock and Mat Parry.

The 2014 champion, Lee Davis is putting up a title defence reminiscent of Manchester United during the David Moyes era!

Unbeaten Windsor Lewis holds on to his lead in the plate on tie-break from Chris Green, while Dave Mahoney holds a slight edge over Nick Mavroyenneas in the battle for the Bowl (assuming Windsor is destined for greater glory).

On the night both Windsor Lewis and Stephen Bonutto drew games against players graded around 300 points higher than them.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
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or apply in writing to:
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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U reference 233451
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- Double glazing
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- Parking
- Communal door

Rent £83.28 per week inc service & water chgs

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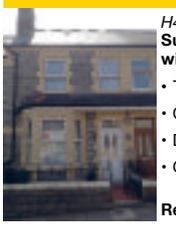

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- Parking

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Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
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- Parking
- Scheme co-ordinator

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ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U reference 209345
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
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- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £101.61 per week including water charges

ELM GROVE, BARRY

H4U reference 209589
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- Double glazing
- Gardens

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GWENOG COURT, BARRY

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Suit for a single person or couple over 55– no pets
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £93.91 per week inc water & alarm chgs

LENNOX GREEN, BARRY

H4U reference 214807
Suit for a single person or couple over 55– no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £95.17 per week inc water & alarm chgs

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 980626
Suit for a single person or couple over 50 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Lwr ground floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking
- Communal gardens

Rent £105.61 per week inc service & water chgs

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 243183
Suit for a single person or couple over 55– no pets
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

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Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £88.17 per week including water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cwm Parc	14	Bronze	03/09/14
Dale Court	6	Gold	26/11/14
Eagleswell Road	17	Silver	21/01/14
Hunt Place	29	Silver	25/10/13
Lloyd Avenue	77	Gold	03/10/14
Nightingale Place	26	Gold	15/05/14
Peterswell Road	21	Silver+	28/10/14
Queens Road	32	Silver	20/06/13
St Lukes Avenue	26	Gold	23/09/14
Tensing Terrace	29	Gold	19/11/14
Ty Ffynnon	16	Silver+	10/06/14

WARWICK WAY, BARRY

H4U reference 2060573
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
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- Double glazing
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£119,950

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- Modern detached
- Popular residential development, close to local amenities
- 4 good bedrooms
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- Needs updating
- No chain

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GER-Y-LAN

- Executive, detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac in St Nicholas in the Vale
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- Popular residential estate
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MALLORY CLOSE

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- Views across the Lake & Somerset Coast

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- No chain

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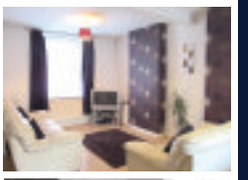
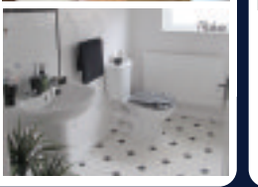

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- 2 bed mid terrace property in popular area of Barry
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- Well presented throughout
- Courtyard garden to the rear
- Offered freehold and would make an ideal 1st purchase

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NEW PRICE

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- 3 bedroom bay fronted Victorian property
- Walking distance to town centre
- Well presented throughout
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- Situated in quiet no through road
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- Conveniently located close to transport links in & out of Barry

£119,950

UNDER OFFER

DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bed end of terrace property
- Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
- In need of work throughout
- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

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UNDER OFFER

RICHARD STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property in a central location
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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

RHODES
Paula

Peacefully passed away at Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan, Paula, aged 96 years, formerly of Llantwit Major. Will be sadly missed by her daughter Lynda, son-in-law Paul and her sisters, nieces and nephews.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, 25th February in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium at 4pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan by cheque to the Funeral Home.

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday to our Princess

Olivia Evans

18 *Lots of Love from* **Mum, Dad & Brandon xxx** 18

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EVANS
June Irene

Passed away suddenly on 13 February at her home in Cowbridge. Very dearly beloved wife of Norman and cherished mother of Pauline, David, Lynda and Richard. Adored Nana to her 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends, and the many, many people whose lives she touched with her kindness.

No flowers by request, but donations in lieu (if desired) should be made to Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0SZ, or via JustGiving.

The funeral will be held at United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge at 2pm on Tuesday, 24th February.

Enquiries to Thomas Bros Funeral Directors 01446 775681.

BRANCH
Ivy

Passed away in Brocastle Manor Care Home on Tuesday 10th February 2015 aged 91 years. Formerly of St Michael's Close, St Athan. Beloved mother, grandmother and friend.

Funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 4th March 2015 at 1.15pm. Flowers are welcome or donations may be made to a charity of your choice, if preferred.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 3AP, telephone 01656 653156

ROBINSON
Natasha Lynn

Suddenly but peacefully in her home in St Athan, on 9 February, Tasha aged 22 years. Much loved daughter of Peter and Anne. Loving sister to Jamie and a devoted granddaughter to Jean. Greatly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SG until the service at Coychurch Crematorium for family and local friends only on Friday, 27 February at 2.45pm. No flowers by request please, donations for the Laverstock Ward, Salisbury Hospital (cheques only please) may be forwarded to the funeral home.

EVANS
June (nee James)

Devoted sister of Anne, Rosemary, Gill, Jenn, Bill and the late Pauline. Sister-in-law Sue, brother-in-laws Graham, Smudger, George and Geoff.

Loved by all.

JONES
Elaine

Lesley, Ian and Alex would like to thank all mum's friends and neighbours for their support and kindness during the past few difficult weeks.

Also, thank you for the many cards and generous donations to Ty Hafan in her memory. Your support has been a greatly appreciated at this sad time.

HERMAN
18th February 2003

Remembering you today Ed as we do every day.

Mum, Dad, Watts, Amelia & Annie

WARD
Alan Christopher

Suddenly on January 26, Alan of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of Sian, loving father of Christopher and Andrew.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday February 25, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, any donations in lieu, if desired, will be gratefully received by a charity of your choice.

GUERCIO
Salvatore

On 12th February, at home after a long illness borne with great dignity, Salvatore fell asleep in death. Beloved husband of June. A devoted father of Maria, Paul and Lisa. Much loved grandfather to all his grandchildren. Beloved son of Seraphina and the late Guiseppie Guercio.

Service to be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, St Brides Way, Barry on Monday, 23rd February at 1pm, followed by interment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

EDWARDS
Marsden

After an illness bravely borne, Marsden of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Carole. Much loved father of Darren, Tracey and Joanne. Loved and respected grandfather of Alice and Joseph.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Thursday, 26 February in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be given to Y Bwthyn Newydd by cheque c/o the Funeral Home.

ARMELIN
Giovanna (Gianna)

Peacefully on February 12 at Llandough Hopsital, Giovanna (Gianna), beloved wife of the late Toni. Adored mother of Carla, Paola, Francis, Anthony, Pia and the late Armando.

Gianna will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. To be received into St Helens Roman Catholic Church, Barry on Tuesday February 24 at 4pm. Requiem Mass Wednesday, February 25 at 11am. Afterwards family only for committal service at Barry Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only - if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research, Marie Curie Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth in memory of her loving son Armando.

HARRIS
Elsie

Peacefully on February 11 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Elsie of Porth-Y-Green, Llanblethian, beloved mother to David, Wayne, Michael and the late Jillian. Loving grandmother to all her grandchildren.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, February 26 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Gateway Monday Club, Cowbridge.

May you rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Dave & Chris Greenfield
are celebrating their
Golden Anniversary
on 20th February 2015

"Many Happy Years Together"

Barry Seconds march on in Cup

ABOVE: Barry RFC Seconds were in action on Saturday in the Mallet Cup and emerged 42-5 winners over Caerau Ely, and HOWARD POOLE was on hand to capture the match action – turn to page 38 to read the match report.

New karate team is formed

Kudo team.

IN 2014, Sensei Malcolm Jones (4th Dan, Goshin Karate) was invited to join the prestigious Kudo UK branch of the international organisation.

Kudo is a mixed martial art comprising full contact punches, kicks, throws, and submission techniques on the ground. In November 2014, he presented the idea of fighting in the Kudo to his Karate students and the first Welsh Kudo team was born.

Recently, a group of six Kudo students led by their instructor, Sensei Malcolm, travelled to London to compete in this year's UK National Junior Kudo Championships.

The first fight of the day was an adult exhibition bout between Kudo Wales fighter, Terry Butler and the highest ranking fighter from Kudo Windsor. Within 30 seconds of the bout, Terry had thrown the English fighter to the ground three times with significant impact, finishing the fight with a powerful head shot.

Next up was 17-year-old A-Jay Harry, one of the team's most dedicated students. A-Jay was keen to impress landing a series of knee and body shots, leading to an unexpected second place.

Jayden Moller, Stefan Atkinson and Brenton Kells all battled their way through the rounds, displaying excellent technique gaining respectable fourth places.

The highlight of the day was in the girls' junior category where Natasha Croll won all of her bouts by TKO.

Natasha used a combination of throws, punches and head kicks, gaining not only respect but the UK national title and an invitation to the World Championships in Japan. Natasha among others will now have the opportunity to represent the UK along with 60 other countries across the world.

Sensei Malcolm stated that there is too much politics in martial arts and would like to make an open invite to other fighters, no matter what style, to attend the Welsh Kudo squad training sessions which will be held every month. He will continue to teach Goshin Karate in the Buttrills Community Centre, and encourages others to continue their practice, but to use Kudo as the way to test their skills.

Can you help the Welsh Kudo team? For more information contact: malcolmsensei@gmail.com/ www.goshinkarate.org.uk.

Emphatic win for the Llantwit Major under-12s

LAST Sunday Llantwit Major under-12s had an early 10am kick off at Brecon RFC.

After the previous week win over Llandaff North, Llantwit had high hopes of another victory in their sights.

It didn't take long for Llantwit to show Brecon they meant business; only two minutes had passed and from the very first scrum the ball was moved along the backs to the outside centre Ewan Heywood who ran 80 metres to score under the posts, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw.

From the restart the Llantwit Major forwards kept Brecon under a lot of pressure and a loose kick by a Brecon player saw the ball land into the hands of Cole Saunders, the Llantwit Major fullback, who duly danced his way through the defence to score in the far right hand corner; the try went unconverted.

Again from the restart the Llantwit forwards recycled the ball out to the outside half Kieran Daw, who sprinted to within five metres of Brecon's try line and then offloaded to the supporting Kofi Jones who scored to the right of the posts to make it 17-0.

Brecon came straight back at Llantwit and a lapse of concentration from the defending team saw them concede a converted try. The halftime score was 17-7.

The second half began with the Llantwit Major forwards dominating the breakdowns and set pieces. One breakdown allowed a move out to Kofi to allow him to break through to score his second try.

Llantwit then really started to pile on the points. From a solid scrum the ball was collected and passed out by scrum half Stephen Williams to Kieran, who put in a lovely looping kick into the hands of Kofi, who kindly offloaded to the supporting Ewan for him to score his second try; the conversion was kicked by Kieran.

Brecon again started to put together some good passages of play controlled by their outside half. It was one of these phases which saw the Brecon outside half break through the Llantwit defence, only for him to be tackled and the ball ripped from him by Cole, who went on to run half the length of the pitch to score his second try; Kieran again with the conversion.

With both teams starting to show signs of tiredness the game started to get messy, but one last show of brilliance saw Kofi sidestep his way to finish off the game under the posts. The conversion by Kieran made the final score 43-7.

Thanks to the parents for travelling to Brecon on international day and to all players involved from both teams for an enjoyable game of rugby.

Team: Rian Thomas, Owen David, Aled Leitch, Cole Saunders, Ewan Heywood, Isaac McBride, Jordan Griffith-Lee, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Kofi Jones, Morgan Thomas, Rhodri Richards, Sam Deere, Sam Jenkins, Sennan Cummings-Jones, Spencer Williams and Stephen Williams.

MD

Kenfig Hill Seconds are just pipped in a league thriller!

KENFIG HILL seconds welcomed Heol Y Cyw to Kenfig Hill for a league match between two of the top teams in the district.

The Mules fielded a young team with many of the forward stalwarts missing; however the team that took the field had plenty of talent and contributed to an excellent game of rugby.

Heol Y Cyw held the upper hand in the tight and always looked to apply pressure at the driving maul.

Heol Y Cyw also possessed speed behind the pack and looked dangerous whenever they moved the ball to their wings.

They opened the scoring with two unanswered tries before Mules scrum half Dan Heatley dummied and crashed over from close range following sustained pressure from the Mules' eight.

Heol Y Cyw responded with a third try following a five yard scrum which saw their number 8 break from the base of the scrum and score wide out. This left the halftime score Kenfig Hill 5, Heol Y Cyw 15.

The Mules upped a gear at the start of the second half and hooker Chris Leyshon broke blind from a ruck 40 yards out and outraced the covering defence to score a fine individual try.

The Mules continued to put Heol Y Cyw under pressure and Leyshon crossed for his second try with a low drive from five yards. This was converted by outside half Lee Rogers to give Kenfig Hill the lead for the first time in the match at 17-15.

Heol y Cyw then scored an excellent try themselves with their speedy backline showing some fine interpassing to score wide out and thereby regain the lead, albeit only for a short time as the Mules responded with a crisp backline move which saw replacement centre Mike Kennedy take a short ball on the burst to score close to the posts.

The try was converted by fellow centre Connor O'Connell to put the Mules back into the lead, 24-20.

Heol Y Cyw intensified the pressure and kept the Mules in their 22 for the final five minutes of the game.

The last play of the game was a Kenfig Hill scrum on the 22 metre line with the Mules knowing that all they had to do was clear their lines for victory. But the ball was won against the head and the speedster in Heol Y Cyw's backline showed the Mules defence a clean pair of heels to score in the corner leaving Heol Y Cyw winners, 25-24.

This was a first class game of rugby, well refereed by ex-Muler Carl Vincent who ensured the game flowed for the full 80 minutes.

Both teams should be congratulated on putting on a thoroughly enjoyable spectacle with the result in doubt up to the final second.

Credit should also got to the Mules back row, which contained two full backs making their debut in the scrum. **DHD**

ABOVE: Mike Kennedy crosses for a try and BELOW: Chris Leyshon in possession. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

CRICKHOWELL born and bred Joanna Morgan, who is a living legend in horse racing circles, and who recently anounced her retirement, has ridden winners in America, Japan, Australia, Dubai and in many other countries besides.

She was the first female to ride at Royal Ascot and also saddled a winner there when her Rocca Tumu landed the Britannia Handicap in 2013.

She was the first of her sex to ride in an Irish Classic and the first to be placed in one when she was third on El Cito, in the 1980 Irish St Leger.

Joanna, who rode more than 200 winners before hanging up her riding boots to concentrate on training horses, was presented with a life time achievement award by the Irish Sports Council/ Irish Times last year and is now in Ireland's Hall of Fame.

She should now be inducted into the Welsh sports' hall of fame and I call upon the committee members to look into the great achievements of this former Welsh point-to-point rider.

CAPPA BLEU

Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams has announced the retirement of his former Grand National runner-up Cappa Bleu, after the 13-year-old was pulled up in the Weatherbys Hamilton Chase at Ascot on Saturday.

The 2009 Cheltenham Foxhunters Chase winner was also third in the 2009 Welsh Grand National at Chepstow and also finished fourth in the 2012 Aintree spectacular.

I still maintain that if the Aintree run-in hadn't been shortened in 2013 when Cappa Blue finished a fast finishing second under regular rider Paul Moloney to Aurora's Encore, he might well have won the race and become the first horse trained in Wales to have won since Kirkland in 1905.

Evan notched up his 56th winner at Ffos Las on Sunday when his five-year-old Wabanaki took the maiden open National Hunt flat.

Ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, Wabanaki, the odds-on favourite, scored by nine lengths from Chief Brody.

BOBS LAW WINS DUNRAVEN

Only five horses faced the starter for Wales' richest hunter chase the Dunraven Welsh Foxhunters Open Hunter Chase staged at Ffos Las and two previous winners fought out the finish.

Bobs Law, partnered by Mr C Gethings, got home by a head from the odds-on favourite Universal Soldier, ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams.

Bobs Law is trained by Mickey Bowen whose father Peter Bowen had won the previous mares' handicap hurdle race with the top weighted Princess Tara.

WELSH POINT-TO-POINT SEASON UNDER WAY

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Point-To-Point season gets under way on Sunday with the the first of the two Curre & Llangibby fixtures at Howick near Chepstow.

The first race is at 12 noon and a number of horses and riders from the Vale are expected to take part.

The trainer in form is Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor, who has already saddled three winners from just six runners.

BRIAN LEE

Wales women salvage pride with win over the world champions!

While the Welsh senior men's team were on the losing end against England, the women's team salvaged some pride for the country with a comprehensive 13-0 win over the current world champions. JULIE HANCOCK was on hand to capture the action. Of local note were local stars Robyn Wilkins and Mel Clay who play for Pencoed Phoenix, Clay picking up her first cap in the best of circumstances!

Robyn Wilkins and Mel Clay.

Cowbridge youth teams in Cup action

BOTH Cowbridge RFC youth teams were in action last Saturday in the Welsh Cup and Bowl.

At the Athletic Field Cowbridge entertained Bridgend Athletic in a game that was a credit to both teams and an great advert for youth rugby.

In an exciting match Cowbridge BC team won 22-15 - but it was tense! In winning the game the team extended their winning run to 20 games in all competitions in the last 12 months.

Bridgend scored first when with five minutes gone their outside half rounded the rush defence to score wide out.

Cowbridge hit back with a score for debutant prop Eddie Drake who broke through several tackles from 10 metes out to crash over. Outside half Alex Guard was just wide with the conversion.

Bridgend added a penalty, but just before halftime, and after a number of phases in attack, wing Zac Summerhayes finished off a move after No 8 Dan Holder picked up at the back of the scrum and fed the ball to scrum half Tom Lucas to put Summerhayes over in the corner. The halftime score was 10-8.

In the second half after good play between both teams hooker Will Haines put Cowbridge further ahead when he broke through the defence to dive over under the posts for a try that Guard converted.

With about 15 minutes to go Bridgend's scrum half scored a great try from 15 metres out, brushing off a tackle to go under the posts for a converted try to make it 17-15.

However, Cowbridge had the last word with a kick across field by full back Joss Thomas (that he says he intended) caught by centre Cameron Gibbon, who swivelled out of a tackle to race to the line from 25 metres.

The last 10 minutes was all action but credit to second row Matt Lock, as he stole a line out from the opposition to allow a clearing kick, the final score of 22-15. A great team effort led from the front by captain Dan Holder.

The BD youth team were up against it at Ystradgynlais and gave their all, going down 22-5.

Ystrad have been sweeping all before them this season, and with a much bigger pack they were very strong in the tight play meaning possession was hard to come by; the halftime score was 19-0.

Huge credit to the players as they stuck to their task and scored a great try when full back Jon Nexmand finished off a move through the hands.

With Ystrad only managing a penalty Cowbridge took the second half by 3-5, the final score 22-5.

The BC youth now go into the semi final at a neutral venue on March 7 where they will face Pontypridd, Aberavon Quins or Penallta.

This Saturday the 1st XV have a must-win game at home to Old Penarthians; the BC youth are billed to be at home to Llanishen and the BD youth away at Taffs Well - all kick offs are at 2.30pm.

RV/RK

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 17:

1st Liam Sheridan & John Beard 65.77%, 2nd Tony Disley & John Evans 60.42%, 3rd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 57.14%.

LE

Llantwit under-14s are on lookout for players

Llantwit Major under-14s at Cadriff Arms Park.

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-14s are on the lookout to bring in some new talent into our squad.

With the Six Nations in full swing it's a good opportunity for anyone interested in giving rugby a go in school year 9 to come along.

Llantwit Major RFC is a club at the heart of the community. We pride ourselves in being able to develop future stars and encourage a high but fun work ethic.

The age group play frequently at the Cardiff Arms Park and test their abilities against teams from across the Blues region as well as challenging themselves at force conditioning gym in Llandow.

We believe in giving every one of our players the ample game time they deserve and also try to create a good team environment by doing team building events such as paintballing and swimming.

We have planned a short tour down to Bristol at the end of the season as well as planning a big tour at under-16s level.

If you or your child want to give rugby a go in a fun, friendly and professional setup then look no further than Llantwit Major.

Rugby experience isn't essential as our coaching team will provide training to bring them up to speed with the rest of the squad.

For more information please contact Kris Pilcher on 07557128861 or email kpilch@hotmail.co.uk.

KP

Sully Seniors are defeated

HAVING won their section of the league, Sully senior team qualified for the national play-offs and were drawn to play Selway (Llanelli) in the quarter finals at Pontardawe.

Selway were represented by a number of former internationals and Sully were expecting a tough afternoon but with a strong side available on the day Sully were confident of success.

The Pontardawe rink was running at a nice pace with players able to play good drawing bowls on all hands which allowed for a good game proven by some early excellent bowling.

After the first five ends the game was level at 17-17, with Brian Griffiths' rink the only Sully rink behind, down by seven.

The game continued to be close and by the 10th end there was only two shots in the game with Sully ahead 35-33.

Over the next five ends the Sully rinks of Fred Phillips and Brian Griffiths were one shot ahead and level respectively, while the rink of Ken McLeod took nine shots to lead 19-13; unfortunately this coincided with Dave Snelling's rink losing nine shots without reply during this period leaving the Sully club still three shots ahead 54-51.

The match going into the final quarter was evenly poised but the luck began to go against the Sully rinks, especially that of McLeod's with two deliveries on two consecutive ends in particular giving the opposition two fours, one from a weighted bowl from McLeod which hit the jack, which bounced back off a back bowl back up the green to four woods belonging to Selway!

The other four came from a misdirected bowl from the opposition's skip which come off an outside bowl and moved the jack for a count of four.

This appeared to deflate the Sully rink who from being 19-13 up did not score on the last six ends, eventually losing 19-27.

The rink of Dave Snelling lost their way after holding seven on the ninth end until the Selway skip drew the shot with his last wood resulting in Snelling's rink only winning two out of the next 12 ends.

The rinks of Phillips and Griffiths were fighting hard to cover the other rinks but the difference was too great and both were attempting to pull off difficult shots to pull back the deficit.

Griffiths' rink finally succumbed losing 16-19, while the rink of Roy Richards, Mike Doyle, Brian Foscolo and Fred Phillips ended up as Sully's only winning rink, 20-17.

It was a great effort from the Sully team and the loss by 15 shots wasn't a fair reflection on the game, however the players are already looking forward to next season.

Overall result: Sully 70, Selway 85. Rink scores (Sully first): D Snelling 15, P Richardson 22; B Griffiths 16 , K Thomas 19; K McLeod19, D Davies 27; F Phillips 20, B Kingdon 17.

FP

BRIAN LEE'S (POINT-TO-POINT) BLAST FROM THE PAST – 1985

THIS week, The GEM's Brian Lee, who has been reporting on the Welsh Hunt Racing scene for almost half-a-century, looks back at some of the top racing stories of 1985.

Under the heading 'Hamer's Shock Victory' I reported that "Welsh champion point-to-point rider Paul Hamer of Coychurch, Bridgend, partnered his brother Geoffrey's Yellow Jersey to a shock 25-1 win in the £5,000 Audi Grand Prix de Chasse at Sandown Park yesterday.

"Aged 24, Paul, who was having his first ride since being injured in a fall at the Carmarthen Hunt a fortnight ago, was chalking up his first winner under Rules. Paul, who has ridden 47 winners between the flags, drives a lorry for a living while his brother Geoffrey, who trains the horse, is employed in a Cardiff betting shop.

"Paul, who used to compete in local gymkhanas alongside his friend Neil Doughty, who won last year's Grand National on Hallo Dandy, said: 'Yellow Jersey dropped himself out about four fences from home but he rallied on again.' Yellow Jersey, who is hunted with Llangeinor, took on the big guns of point-to-pointing and his win has given Welsh hunt-racing a tremendous boost.

"Paul is bound to come in for some well deserved back slapping at today's Pentyrch Hunt at Llantwit Major where he has several rides."

At that meeting, under the heading 'First Win After 17 Years', my report read: "One rider rode his 100th winner and another had his first at the Pentyrch Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases. Newport's Steve Shinton, aged 33, who has been riding for 17 years, finally made it into the winners' enclosure when the family-owned seven-year-old brown gelding Beruto landed the second division of the Maiden.

"Basaleg's Tim Rooney, who has ridden nine hunter chase winners, brought his total number of wins to 100 when chalking up his 91st success between-the-flags on 14-year-old Crosstown, who is owned by Barry farmer Ted Williams.

"Crosstown, who had finished runner-up in his previous four races, came home four lengths clear of Final Clear in the Adjacent.

"In the four-mile Open for the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National, odds-on favourite French Bob looked like he was going to win his fourth race in a row, but he ran out approaching the last leaving Purple Haze, ridden by Wade Willis, to finish one-and-a-half lengths ahead of August Moon, with the 1983 winner Mr Moneybags a further length away in third spot.

"Tarnya Davis had the Ladies' Open won on Dainty Dolly when Luchello came down three from home and Grenville Richards' mare was winning for the third time this season.

"Tim Lewis rode a well judged race on Sporting Tack to win the Members by six lengths from Quiz Master with last year's winner Grand Trianon a further eight lengths back in third place."

For the record, Bridgend butcher Jon Tudor won the restricted on Trailing Rose.

One point-to-point rider who was rarely out of the headlines was Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn and under the heading 'Llewellyn Gets His 150th Win' I revealed: "John Llewellyn from Cowbridge reached a milestone in his riding career when landing his 150th winner at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

"Llewellyn, aged 38, got Mr Money Bags home by a neck in the Men's Open to reach his 140th win between-the-flags and his 10 wins under rules made it a historic 150 altogether. Llewellyn, who made history a couple of years ago by becoming the first Welshman to win the National risers' championship outright, made it win 151 when scoring on Young Sugar Bush in the maiden.

"He now has a two point lead over Tim Rooney in the Welsh riders' championship. Bridgend's Jon Tudor, who is enjoying his best ever season, won the Members' race on Island Mist who was left in the lead when Rose Stuart came down at the second last fence.

"Final Flirtation, a 33-1 outsider, came to the aid of the bookmakers when landing the adjacent from Linkville who was half-a-length down at the winning post. Final Flirtation, a half-sister to Dudley Cup winner Nornan Case, was ridden by 21-year-old David Llewellyn.

"David's brother Carl, aged 19, who is assistant trainer to Bristol's Jim Old won the Restricted Open on Yukon Tina."

Carl Llewellyn and David Llewellyn are not related to Cowbridge's John Llewellyn. They are from west Wales and, of course, Carl went on to ride two Grand National winners in Party Politics (1992) and Earth Summit (1998). Perhaps David's claim to fame is that he is the owner, breeder and trainer of Lady Dudley Cup winner and prolific point-to-pointer Rosies Peacock.

These days, Shropshire's Lucy Crow is a well-known leading trainer of point-to-pointers. However, back then she was a leading rider and under the heading 'Lucy's Journey Proves In Vain', I reported: "Leading lady rider Lucy Crow made a four hour journey from north Shropshire to ride at the Ystrad Hunt Point-To-Point at Llantwit Major. But her long trek proved disappointing, as she could only finish fourth on odds-on Optimum in the Ladies' Open Race.

"The race was won by 18-year-old Heather McCaul, who rode a stylish finish on Violet Higg's Magic Rock to win by six lengths from Red Spirit, partnered by Rhondda's Shajn Morgan. Another young rider in good form was Caerphilly's Tim Jones who took the Adjacent on Ann Holly's MS Largesse who was winning for the third time this season.

"Jones, aged 19, is the son of the late Lloyd Jones, who was killed in a race riding accident some years ago. Mr Moneybags, one of the toughest point-to-pointers in training, who was having his fourth race in as many weeks, won the Men's Open under Cowbridge's John Llewellyn by a distance from Friday's Meadow, with Pipegate a further distance away in third place."

Mrs Shan Farr, formerly Miss Shan Morgan (she married Aberthin farmer Ross Farr) has a daughter Emily who has ridden point-to-point winners in the Vale as well as in New Zealand, and it is nice to be reporting on the successes of the sons and daughters of the mothers and fathers I was writing about all those years ago.

Under the heading 'Shan Holds Off Late Challenge', this is how my report dated April 23, 1985, of the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point read: "Norman Jones' ex-Irish chaser Luchgello made nearly all the running to win the first division of the Ladies' Open at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

"Confidently ridden by Rhondda's Shan Morgan, Luchello easily held off the late challenge of odds-on favourite Dainty Dolly. The second division went to outsider Magic Rock who gave Heather McCaul her first winning ride in just four races.

"Heather, aged 18, from Hereford rode a stylish finish to score by half a length from the odds-on favourite Mickley That. Caerphilly's Mike Bishop saw his promising seven-year-old Timebreaker score a comfortable win over 14-year-old Hobo in the Adjacent hunts race.

"Timebreaker was the first leg of a double for Tim Rooney who later landed a division of the maiden on Savage Sally. Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn also had a double with the grey Suiker Bos in the members' race and Master Straight in the first division of the Men's Open.

"Schoolteacher Peter Murphy, aged 38, who has been riding for only two seasons, chalked up his first winner when 13-year-old Suntan Susie, who he owns in partnership with Mike Hodges, won division two of the Maiden.

"St Athan farmer John Thomas took the first division on Cyril Liley's five-year-old Ocean Boy who beat Ardcan by half-a-length."

You can e-mail your point-to-point memories/pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Pupils' cross-country success

The girls did Llantwit Major School proud.

ON Wednesday, February 11, five girls from Llantwit Major School travelled to Brecon to represent the Cardiff/Vale team in their various age groups.

It was a dry but very cold day, the snow topped hills in the distance making a picturesque view for the runners.

Ellie Atkinson and Erin Hayes were members of the senior team. They both had excellent races, finishing second and 10th out of a field of 50 runners. Their excellent performances helped the team finish second in a tough competition.

Hannah Jones represented the middle girls team, Alisha Hayes the junior girls team which finished second in the competition and Erin McCloughlin the year 7 team which finished third in the competition - well done to all girls.

Congratulations also go to Erin Hayes who gained her first Welsh vest for cross-country when she represented the Welsh team in the Cardiff cross challenge competition in January. **SB**

Barry Seconds progress in Cup at Caerau's expense

BARRY 2nd XV welcomed the visit of Caerau Ely, who were on the back of a defeat by Barry's 1st XV, to the Reservoir Fields for a Mallet Cup second round tie.

A spate of players unavailable due to touring Scotland for the Six Nations, and also Valentine's Day commitments, meant that coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow gave a first start for Jordan Clarke on the wing, while there were also recalls for James Hadfield and Josh Flynn after long-term injuries.

The home side started with an extra step in their stride, possibly because of the long time since they played a competitive game, and the visitors found it difficult to live with that tempo. With Hadfield, Dominic Busuttil and Sion Vidal to the fore, Barry pinned their opponents early on as they pressed for the opening score.

After Ashley Adams had wasted an early penalty opportunity from kickable distance, Barry's pressure was rewarded when Dave Evans' crunching tackle saw the ball spilled by Caerau, and Hadfield was on hand to open the scoring with a simple try. Adams added the extras.

Then the floodgates opened. Shifting the ball quickly out wide, Barry negated the power of the Caerau forwards to send Jamie Oaten galloping through from midfield, and despite seemingly running out of gas towards the line, he managed to touch down for a second converted try.

With still 10 minutes to go from halftime, the game seemed all but over when Hadfield once again finished off a fine Barry move to score underneath the posts, with the conversion a formality.

Hadfield, however, injured himself in the process, and his withdrawal sparked a mini revival from the visitors who laid siege to the Barry line, but were repelled by some typically stern tackling from John Miles, Lee Jones and Evans. At the interval the score was 21-0.

With the other scorer Oaten also withdrawn at halftime, Caerau sensed a chance of a comeback. However, that was quickly thwarted when quick ball generated by the Barry forwards and scrum-half Gallivan gave Adams the opportunity to score a well-worked try. He converted the try himself to put Barry out of sight.

Using a combination of forward power and slick passing from the backs, Barry would add two more tries before the end. Gallivan was the first to profit from a close-range effort, before Busuttil crashed over underneath the posts showing great determination and power.

To their credit, the visitors rallied late on with only 13 men and were rewarded rightly with an unconverted try at the death, making the final score 42-5, but the day ultimately belonged to Barry, who have now dispatched two of the favourites for the cup in the last two rounds.

The 1st XV will host Llandaff North this weekend, while the 2nd XV will return to action on March 7 when they play Llanishen at home.

Team: Mepham; Poole, Busuttil, Evans, Clarke; Adams, Gallivan; Morris, Vidal, Corne; Jones ©, Oaten; Miles, Hadfield, Rolfe. Replacements: Thomas, Flynn, Westall, Dimond. Man of the match: Miles.

KC

SEE HOWARD POOLE'S PICTURES ON PAGE 36

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, February 10, the first round matches in the men's doubles were played at the Edmondes Arms and Llanharry Working Men's Club.

It was a good night for doubles pairs from the Highwayman Inn with Wayne Morgan and Steve Sylvester, Ashley Baker and Dave Lowden and Lee Jones and Adam Sheppard all winning.

The remaining winning doubles pairs were Rob McCaver and Paul Ward (Hare & Hounds), Tony Fox and Dave Thomas (Farmers Arms), Lee Davies and Morgan John (Llanharry), Trevor Morgan and Cedric Simmonite and Steve Simmonite and Rhys Jury (Edmondes 'A').

Present league standings after 14 matches, are: Llanharry (105 points), Edmondes B (81), Highwayman Inn (70), Edmondes A (69), Hare and Hounds (60), Farmer's Arms and Edmondes C (46) and Old Post Ladies (25).

On Tuesday, February 24, there is a full programme of league matches. The Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes A, the Edmondes C hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes B hosts the Hare and Hounds and Llanharry hosts the Old Post Ladies. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found at darts.apsn.co.uk. **PJT**

Wolves have too much bite for Rhoose

AFTER the heavy rain on Friday, the pitch was in very good condition for this game between Dinas Wolves under-12s and Rhoose.

The visitors had instructions to press high and move the ball as fast as they could. Doing this throughout the game gave the villagers so many opportunities.

Goals came thick and fast in the opening 30 minutes with an absolute cracker from Jake Frost. Kiean Quest and Kyle Booker bossed the wings and offered width while Tylor Williams, Jacob Moss, Robson Mallum gave the team a great platform to work off.

Dylan Morris played such a high line in goals there was little space to get in behind the Dinas team.

Going forward Wolves play with such verve and the movement was so lively they cut through the home side to score some great team goals.

The boys train very hard on a style of play so they know where and when to go and their work rate for each is other is a joy to watch.

Man of the match Callum Hewitson scored with a great overhead kick, with goals from Jake Frost, Jake Lewis (3), Kyle Booker (2), Joe Doughty (2), Cole Saunders, Callum Hewitson (3), Bayley Harewood (2) and an own goal.

The lads wish Zak, Connor and Ieaun a speedy recovery.

LS

Young skaters have bright future ahead

TWO young figure skaters from the Vale have recently been selected for the British development squad.

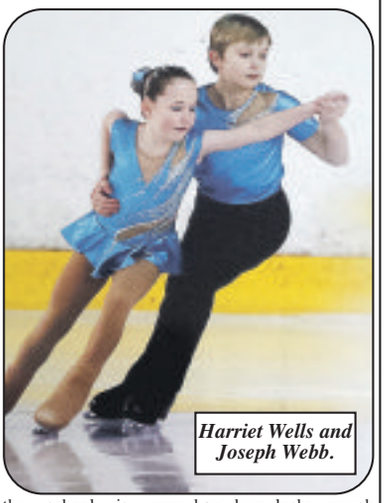
Harriett Wells (8), and Joseph Webb (11), started skating when Harriett was four and Joseph was seven.

They got together as a pair when they were six and nine. Harriett and Joseph entered their first competition in Basingstoke at this young age, were placed third and competed in Bradford again a year later and placed first.

Harriett and Joseph have dedicated the last year to their skating tests and in December passed their level 1 and 2 and have recently been put in for their level 3.

The pair train at Cardiff Planet Ice five times a week, some days getting on the ice for 6am.

Harriett goes to Ysgol Sant Curig in Barry and the school is very supportive of her.



Harriet Wells and Joseph Webb.

She is currently on the development squad as a single skater, as well as a pair.

Joseph started skating on a family day out; he got on the ice and took to it like a duck to water and never looked back.

He goes to St Illtyds Primary in Llantwit Major, where the school have always offered him lots of encouragement.

Recently, Harriett and Joseph appeared on ITV Wales News, talking about their skating, and have taken part in other filming programmes and have been lucky enough to skate with celebrities.

Harriett and Joseph are the youngest pair in Britain on the development squad and are working towards competing in the British championships in November 2015.

They are both really excited about going to their new home in Cardiff Ice Arena Wales.

The families are looking for sponsorship to help the pair with training and kit.

If anyone can help, please contact Owen on 07968 734042.

AW

Send your news and reports to us - email *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

The Barry & District ladies skittle league results

RESULTS for week commencing February 2:

First Division: Allsorts (C Griffiths, C Brewer 26) 281, Pila Palas (H Say, J Griffiths 27) 245; Coppers (S Curtis 37) 322, Castaways (M Wilder 34) 315; SV Gals (K Hawkins 320 297, Barry Stars (N Jones 33) 275; Colcot Lds (S Howroft 29) 246, Family Affair (N Jones 24) 234; Red Admiral (Steph Clements 275) 266, Family & Friends (J Phillips 33) 273; Space Finders (E Worthy 33) 327, Baker's Dozen (Western 40) 340; Special Angels (T Jones 26) 225, Cigar Lds (J Price 29) 269.

Second Division: Strikers (R Phillips 27) 202, SV Lights (N Alsop 25) 235; Roller Coasters (C Thomas 265) 209, After Eights (I Havard 23) 221; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 34) 291, Divas (A Bird 30) 238; Vixens (L Gasworthy 32) 278, Witchill Weebies (J Byrne 29) 253; Bobby's Girls (S Sugden 29) 257, Rhoose Starlighters (P Tucknutt, E Davies 24) 236; Castle Bandits (D Collard, C Kerslake 26) 235, Breakaways (C Parfitt 27) 227; Clickies (M Williams 33) 324, Cad Con Fillies (V Heard 32) 284.

Third Division: Rhoose Ravers (J Lott 31) 244, Dolly Mixtures (P Bayham 24) 246; Jolly Dollies (V Jackon 31, K Taylor 22) 268, Hill Billies (J Lambeth 223) 207; Airways Angels (J Thomas, E Jones 26) 243, Westenders (G Somers 27) 253; Rugby Triers (K Britton 25) 216, Persuaders (K Scott 23) 268; SV Lds (M Lacny 32) 285, Friends & Neighbours (E Weston 36) 272; Lil's Devils (J Davies 25) 215, Merry Makers (C Morse 25) 204.

Fifth Division: Nite Outers (L White 34) 167, Billy Bunter (G Loveless 30) 239.

Sully bowls team lose to top flight Newport

SULLY indoor bowls championship team travelled to Newport last Saturday for their final league game with great expectancy, yet suffered a humiliating defeat.

Newport always field a strong team and Saturday was no exception with a number of current and past internationals playing, therefore Sully had to play above the norm to force a result.

It was soon evident in the early ends that Newport were in no mood to make it easy for the visitors and went straight into a 19 shot lead, 18-37, by the end of the fifth.

At this point three Sully rinks of Martin Clarke, Ken McLeod and Brian Foscolo were actually competing strongly and were ahead by three, two and three shots respectively, but the rinks of Fred Phillips, Mat Woodcock and Brian Griffiths were struggling against some fine bowling from the Newport rinks skipped by Tom Nicholls, Mike Dick and Alan Bradford.

By the 10th end Newport piled on the pressure and had increased their lead to 30 shots, 38-68, with the Sully players way off form and continuing to struggle against a Newport team bowling at the top of their game.

At the three-quarter mark Newport were well ahead by an embarrassing 56 shots, 57-113, with still six ends to play. Only the rinks of Foscolo and McLeod were making a game of it, being level and one behind respectively.

By the 21st and final end, only Foscolo's rink of Graham Cogbill, Gary Eastment and Mike Doyle managed a fine win, beating an excellent Newport rink skipped by Brian Howard 21-19 by taking a three on the final end.

Unfortunately McLeod's rink, who had fought their way to the front by the 19th end, then dropped a two and a single on the last two ends to lose by one shot, 16-17.

The other Sully rinks didn't turn up on the day and all lost heavily but hopefully this will have given the newer players an insight as to where they have to be in the future to improve their chances of competing against the teams like Newport and Blaenau Gwent.

Match result: Sully (88) two points, Newport (135) 20 points.

FP

Good results for young footballers

BARRY Town United under-19s recorded their third win in four competitive matches recently, with a thrilling 5-4 victory at Caldicot Town in Welsh League Youth Division East.

Goals from Adam Owens, Keir McInery, Bradley O'Loughlin (2) and Taylor Harris secured the points under the floodlights at Jubilee Way, moving the Town above AFC Porth, who they edged out 4-3 the previous weekend.

The under-14s, coming off a 5-2 triumph against Llantwit Major, battled hard to secure a point at St Athan, while goals from Joseff Rosser and Kenzie Ashton helped the under-12s come from two goals behind to earn a 2-2 draw against Dinas Powys.

AC

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Year 9 netball team.

THE COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

THE Year 10 hockey team, with Freya Johnson (GK) Mali Howell and Ffion McNamee from Year 9, took part in the first round of the county tournament at Radyr on Tuesday, February 10.

We played Howells first; they took an early lead and scored straight away. We then played much better, clearing the ball out of our circle and defending really well.

We held them off from scoring another goal and most of the second half. We were attacking really well, unfortunately we just couldn't score.

Then we played Radyr who were stronger and more skilful and we defended the whole game with Sophie Oddy, Mali Howell and Ffion McNamee repeatedly taking the ball from our defending circle up to halfway, only for Radyr to come back at us.

Finally Ffion sent the ball up to Libby Williams who set up the perfect cross for Sian Pritchard to score. Radyr eventually won 2-1 but both games were excellent. Good luck to Radyr who are in the final.

NETBALL

The senior netball team took part in the Cardiff and Vale County Netball tournament held at Whitchurch High School.

We had a fair draw - Llantwit, Cardiff High and Glantaf. We played Llantwit first beating them 11-6 with lovely defence in the circle from Charlotte Booth and Rebecca Thomas.

Our second game was tough against Cardiff High; we lost 19-9. Their passing and shooting was outstanding and we struggled to keep possession and could not keep up with the pace of the game.

Lastly we played Glantaf; at halftime we were losing 9-4, however we came back in the second half with excellent interceptions from Hannah Lister Sims which stopped the flow of play for Glantaf and impressive shooting from Kim Jerwood and Lydia Hitchings saw us finish 10-10.

Well done to all the girls; we finished second in our pool.

The Year 9 netball team played in the preliminary round of the county netball tournament at Talybont.

Cowbridge played St. Teilos first and won 10-1. Next was Fitzalan where Cowbridge won 11-1. Cowbridge played St. Richard Gwyn next and won 10-2, and then we played Bro Morgannwg, drawing 7-7.

Throughout the tournament the Cowbridge team played outstandingly - Sarah Jones, Elin Swallow and Tirion Evans in defence, Jordan Meek, Meriel Clode and Molly Ward-Tossell in the centre court, and Sophie Rees and Oivia Mitchell were spot on shooters.

Cowbridge won their pool and now go through to the county finals in March - good luck and well done.

Cowbridge netball teams had two matches with Glantaf this week.

All teams lost their matches. We haven't come up against such strong opposition yet this year and it has given us plenty to work on over the next few training sessions.

On Thursday, January 29, a combined Year 10 & 11 team went to Whitchurch to play in the final of the Ann Smart tournament.

We played three tough teams - Cardiff High, Cathedral and Glantaf. Cardiff High were favourites going into the final and unfortunately we were drawn to play them first. They were very strong, winning 19-4.

Then we played Glantaf, winning a very close match 6-5. Brilliant defence by Ffion Vickers and Selina Radcliffe stopping Glantaf from scoring. Excellent centre court plays by Eleri Swallow intercepted several passes.

Lastly we played Cathedral; at halftime we were winning 5-4 but they came back at us and eventually won 8-6.

Well done to all the girls who played top class netball all afternoon, the first Cowbridge team to get to the final in this particular competition.

Local student's Welsh hockey call-up delight

MACKENZIE WHILDING, a year 7 student from Llantwit Major Comprehensive, has once again been selected to represent Great Britain at the AAU junior Olympics in her chosen sport of inline hockey.

Despite a severe injury at the start of the season, she has fought back and is on top form, proving she has the will to win.

This year's competition is to be held in Carona California from July 7-16.

Mackenzie currently plays for the Cardiff Capitals and has also been selected to represent Wales in the upcoming Super League tournament in April.

Although she has only been playing as a netminder for two years, she has gained national recognition from BIPHA (British Inline Puck Hockey Association).

These include the 2013 under-10s' south Wales top goaltender, the national top goaltender, national dream team goaltender and, for the 2014 season, the under-12s' top goaltender, despite breaking her leg mid-season.

Mackenzie achieved her dream last year when she was selected to represent Great Britain at the AAU junior Olympics last year in Las Vegas, but this year will be extra special since there was uncertainty if she would be fit enough to play after breaking her arm in September.

Once again she is the only Welsh player on the team of 12 and one of only two female players.

The cost of training, travel and kit for the trip to California must be self-funded, therefore Mackenzie would be delighted to hear from any company or individual that would be able to assist with sponsorship or a donation of an item that may be used as a raffle prize.

Any donation, no matter how small, would be gratefully accepted and would be used towards the BIPHA expenses.

More information can be found at her website: 1goalie.moonfruit.com.

SW

Left to right: Karl Jones (coach), Dan Morgan, Nattawutt Snowdon, and Micky Dixon (coach).

Good start to year for Llantwit boxers

TWO Llantwit Major boxers kicked off 2015 with a show hosted by Maerdy Amateur Boxing Club.

Nattawutt 'Woody' Snowdon (12) was first up, boxing a local boy - Shay Bridge. Woody got off to a bright start, demonstrating the steady progress he's been showing in the gym.

Dominating from the off, Woody caught Bridge with a flurry of shots, maintaining his guard and catching a lot of the return shots on the gloves.

The second round saw Woody give Shay a standing eight count, after a combination of uppercuts and hooks we've worked on in training.

The third round was hard-fought with both boxers giving it their all. The unanimous decision was given to the Llantwit Major boxer.

The club's second bout of the night featured a rematch between Llantwit Major boxer Dan Morgan and Maerdy boxer David Balint.

The first time the pair met Balint took a split decision win in a very close fought contest.

This time round Morgan set the pace of the fight, putting the Maerdy boxer on the back foot from the sound of the first bell, connecting with plenty of clean shots.

Balint grew frustrated and had a point deducted after the referee took a disliking to him talking to Morgan during the round.

The second round was much the same as the first with Morgan continuing to be the aggressor, taking the fight by the scruff of the neck.

Balint, boxing on the backfoot managed to land a few decent shots in the second round, making the bout very entertaining for the very lively Maerdy crowd.

The final round was well fought by both boxers, standing toe to toe for much of the round exchanging blows.

Dan has worked tirelessly in the gym over the last nine months working on all aspects of his game. The development and improvement since their last meeting is testament to his efforts.

The club would like to congratulate both boxers. We look forward to a successful 2015 for Llantwit Major boxing club.

KJ

EVAN'S 55th WINNER

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams saddled his 55th winner at Ffos Las Racecourse on Tuesday when his eight-year-old Buywise landed the SIS 'National Hunt' Novices Hurdle under stable jockey Paul Moloney.

Eight-year-old Buywise, the oldest of the five runners in the race, won by five lengths from the Peter Bowen-trained Bera Venture.

Bowen, who later chalked-up his 54th winner over the course with Letbeso, is hot on the heels of Williams while in third place with 34 winners is Aberthin's Tim Vaughan.

Bargoed's Bernard Llewellyn had the winner and the runner-up in the maiden hurdle race when Filatore, ridden by Michael Byrne, finished five lengths ahead of stable companion Global Thrill, partnered by Mr Llewellyn's grandson Robbie Williams.

However, Robbie had cause to celebrate when he won the closing conditional jockeys hurdle on Try It Sometime for Sheila.

BRIAN LEE

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

SCOTLAND 23 Wales 26

A CLOSE RUN THING IN BATTLE OF THE DEFENCES, BUT...

Murrayfield recovery put Wales back on course for title bid

A YEAR AGO, one week after an insipid display against England, when they were crushed 19-28 at Twickenham, Wales partially rescued their 2014 Six Nations campaign with a resounding 51-3 victory over Scotland in almost a carnival atmosphere at the Millennium Stadium.

In a strange quirk of fate, the two teams faced each other again on Sunday last – in the wake of Wales' even more dismal display in the 16-21 surrender to England the week before.

However, this time the battlefield wasn't Cardiff, but Edinburgh, with Scottish rugby no longer in disarray, but now steadily advancing under the firm hand of their new Kiwi commander, head coach Vern Cotter, and bolstered by their battling display in losing 15-8 to France.

Even so, the Welsh camp were hoping that history would repeat itself and that the 120th cross-border clash between the two home nations since they first met 132 years ago (on January 8, 1883, at Raeburn) would add to their 24 victories and three draws – compared to the home team's 32 wins – on Scottish soil.

The overall match statistics also strongly favoured Wales – 68 wins compared to the Scots' 48 – with the Dragon having amassed a commanding total of 1,558 points against Scotland's 1,188.

Moreover, Wales had triumphed on the previous seven occasions, a run stretching back to 2008, when Kiwi head coach Warren Gatland first took over the reins – and the current squad had the added incentive of needing to make amends for the failures against England and justify his decision to resist calls for drastic changes.

"*There are times when you have to make changes and others when you have to back the players, and the forwards get a chance to redeem themselves*," he averred.

"*We probably got caught up in the way the (England) game played out; we need to be more expressive and play a bit more rugby. We have to get back on the horse*."

Skipper Sam Warburton gave a clear hint of the intense pressure the team was now under to perform, following criticism of the display against England: "*Teams are starting to play a bit less rugby against us and it's all about how we can adapt to that*."

He added: "*Scotland is a must-win game for us. We now need four victories to have a chance of winning the Six Nations title*".

In the event, a bruising encounter, packed with incident and controversy right to the end, at a Murrayfield stadium resounding to strains of '*Hymns and Arias*' from the massed ranks of red-festooned Welsh supporters, saw Scotland scoring a try in the 79th minute, but Wales squeaking home 26-23 in a dramatic finale.

And drama there was in plenty, with Wales tightening up the loose kicking game that had been so costly against England and reverting to the familiar direct approach, taking the game to the Scots with ball in hand – in a way they had notably failed to do in Cardiff.

They quickly began to impose themselves and drew first blood with a penalty after five minutes, slotted over by the ever-reliable Leigh Halfpenny.

The battling Scots responded, against the run of play, with a breakaway try by stylish full back Stuart Hogg, converted by scrum half and captain Greig Laidlaw, to give an early reminder that they were not be taken lightly. More chances went a-begging through a combination of Scottish over-eagerness, poor decision making, and basic handling errors, but Wales were forced to concede an easy penalty, which Laidlaw slotted over to make the score 10-3.

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

Pictures by the Huw Evans Agency.

LEFT:
Scrum half Rhys Webb points try scorer Jonathan Davies towards the posts. Earlier (ABOVE) he had added to his own remarkable try tally for Wales.

Then it was the Scots' turn to offend and Halfpenny cut the arrears with a simple penalty of his own. With the visitors now increasingly dominating possession, they inexplicably turned down another three points with a kickable penalty – opting instead to drive for the line. The pack lost possession, leading to a Scottish scrum and the home defence held firm.

A controversial turning point came when Scotland outside half Finn Russell upended his opposite number Dan Biggar in a dangerous aerial challenge and was handed a yellow card by New Zealand referee Glen Jackson (who was to come in for criticism for this and other decisions) on the grounds that the player's actions were not 'intentional'.

(That, though, was not a defence accepted when Wales captain Sam Warburton was controversially shown a red card in the 2011 Rugby World Cup semi-final against France!)

One wonders what certain commentators who felt that a yellow card was punishment enough, would have said if a helpless Biggar had been gravely injured in the incident?

On this note, where players' health and safety is concerned, officials have a clear duty to be consistent, particularly with another RWC imminent. Not surprisingly, the player concerned was cited by the match commissioner. As this column has previously noted, a yellow card was surely intended only for technical offences. If nothing else, such incidents highlight the need for further clarity on this whole contentious issue.

In the event, Russell's ten minute absence proved costly to his side – as first Halfpenny brought Wales to a single point deficit (10-9), and then scrum half Rhys Webb added to his remarkable scoring exploits in a red jersey by rounding off a move which Halfpenny converted from wide out.

When Jonathan Davies incurred the wrath of the referee and controversially joined Russell in the 'sin-bin' for a far less serious misdemeanour, it was Wales' turn to come under renewed pressure, but the defence held firm, to go into halftime 16-10 in the lead.

The margin was almost immediately narrowed to 16-13 in the second period with the return of Russell, when Wales were penalised and Laidlaw made no mistake, but Davies' return to the field saw Wales turn the screw, resulting in a penalty award.

Halfpenny's attempt hit an upright but bounced the right way and when the Welsh scrum, which had inevitably been expected to struggle in the absence of tight head Samson Lee, won a rare ball against the head, only the scrum half's fumble foiled a seemingly certain touchdown.

In fact, it was Scotland who added to their score with a Laidlaw penalty and the tension was racheted up further when a try by lively wing Liam Williams was disallowed for obstruction, and then Halfpenny for once missed with a penalty attempt.

At 19-16 and with eyes already turning to the clock, both sides knew that the next score would be decisive – and in fact it was Jonathan Davies who powered through for a gifted try under the posts, which Halfpenny converted to make the score 26-16

Scotland were not finished yet and launched yet another determined attack, only thwarted by a herculean Welsh defence, and a pass that was adjudged forward.

They were not to be long denied, however, and pummelled away at the Welsh line, ironically-named replacement Welsh finally hurling himself through a pile of bodies for a try, converted by Laidlaw, to make the score 26-23 .

As the final whistle blew, it was celebration time in Edinburgh for the ecstatic army of Welsh fans who had made the long journey north to witness their mightily relieved team get their Six Nations campaign back on track.

As ever when these two Celtic rivals meet, it was a hard-fought, high-scoring affair, not lacking in passion and commitment, and the Welsh camp will relish the improved display – though a high penalty count (on both sides) will be a cause for concern – as will Wales' continuing set-piece problems.

However, they now have an extra week to prepare for the next match in Paris on Saturday, February 28, against a French team that is yet to fire, but has a formidable pack who will be out to exploit any weaknesses up front.

That should be warning enough for Wales to get this aspect of their act together!

Welsh outside half Dan Biggar claims the ball, but is propelled high into the air in an incident that underlines the urgent need for a tightening of the laws concerning aerial challenges.